AROK'S AUSSIE RECORD

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AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY

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TRANSFER MADNESS

BY KEITH GILMOUR

THE $50,000 asking price in Sydney for youngster Zlatko Arambasic has caused intriguing questions to be asked about the mechanics of the Australian Soccer transfer market.

Whilst the final figure was reduced to $27,500 and then, on a second appeal, to $20,000, and he has now moved from Canterbury Marrickville in the NSW State League to NSL club Blacktown City, the market needs tidying up.

A strange web of activities enmeshes the whole affair.

• Canterbury sought $50,000 — Blacktown offered $13,000 and a share of any money received if he later moves overseas.

• The NSW Appeals Committee settled for $27,500 on appeal — the club offered $18,000.

• A curious bid from Sydney Olympic of $20,000 was circulated in the media.

• Arambasic appealed to the NSW Board. After missing five games while the haggling went on, he was revalued at $20,000 — a long way from the unrealistic $50,000 sought in the first place.

Even more difficult to comprehend has been the plight of former schoolboy international and Young Socceroo Milan Blagojevic.

The asking price by Avala for this youngster was also $50,000, but it was subsequently reduced to $17,500 and Blagojevic has appealed again.

This sort of money for a lad who hasn't played higher than the NSW Second Division!

In comparison to the fees being asked for youngsters, have a look at the prices being obtained by seasoned internationals.

Strikers with international experience such as Warren Spink, John Kosmina and Andrew Zinni changed clubs for much lower figures than are being sought for youth players.

And the same applies for the likes of Joe Palatsides, as well as New Zealand internationals Mike McGarry and Billy Wright.

Over-valuing youngsters can lead to their being forced to stand aside as well as ending up too big a drain on limited club finances.

It might well be asked what the clubs involved have done to justify seeking even $10,000 for young players.

Continuance of this situation could result in more players being imported in spite of visa players being restricted to three per club.

And that will take positions from right under the noses of starlets being developed right here in Australia!

Dramatic NSL action like this from last Sunday's Sydney Olympic vs Preston Makedonia game has been responsible for near-record crowds this season. The first six league rounds have attracted almost 150,000 spectators.

Mergers, privatisation inevitable —

AROK'S DARING CRYSTAL BALL

BY GREG RUSSELL

SOCCEROO coach Frank Arok has urged Queensland Soccer administrators to seriously consider a Brisbane United entry in the National League.

Arok made the suggestion during a highly successful and well received appearance at the launch of the 1989 Queensland XXXX League season at Perry Park last week.

He had been billed as a "mystery guest" and the Queensland media responded by turning out in droves, and when the veil of secrecy was lifted, Arok certainly didn't let the newsmen down.

"I am quite certain it will happen sooner or later and when it does I can see crowds of up to 15,000 watching a Brisbane United side," Arok said.

Arok, although stressing he was speaking as an individual and not a representative of the Australian Soccer Federation, predicted the format of the NSL would change in the immediate future because "it cannot go on like it is".

CONTINUED TO PAGE 17

Big New Zealand sponsorship deal

NEW Zealand's informative SOCCER EXPRESS reports that an Auckland video chain, Video City, is sponsoring the All Whites' two homes games in the World Cup qualifiers.

A five-figure deal was announced two weeks ago.

It is the biggest sponsorship of the Kiwi national team since the abortive Royal Life deal in 1987, and means the games against Australia and Israel will be referred to as the Video City World Cup Series and the New Zeaand side known as the Video City All Whites.

All White coach John Adshead described the sponsorship as "a much needed boost for Soccer in New Zealand."

The video chain has indicated a desire to be further involved in the game and has first rights should the All Whites — heaven forbid! — progress further on the road to Italy 1990.

CERI EVANS

On the World Cup team front, Ceri Evans is definitely unavailable for the current World Cup campaign due to his Oxford University commitments.

The former All White central defender is on the verge of signing a professional contract with Second Division Oxford United.

Ohana out, Pizanti in for Israel

IT now seems certain that Mechelen star Eli Ohana will be unavailable for Israel's World Cup opener against New Zealand in Tel Aviv on March 5.

Ohana's fractured cheekbone will keep him out of action until it's Australia's turn to meet Israel in Tel Aviv — on March 19.

Better news for Israel is the likely availability of tough-tackling defender David Pizanti for the match against New Zealand on March 5.

The 26-year-old Queens Park Rangers player will be released by his English club for the game because all club matches have been cancelled that day for England's qualifier against Albania.

Pizanti, who has been capped 26 times for Israel, told New Zealand's SOCCER EXPRESS that Australia was entitled to favouritism against New Zealand and Israel.

So if seems that the Socceroos will face Ohana, but won't see Pizanti in action.

Wish it had been the other way round . . .

ITALIA'90

Eli Ohana (left) gets the better of Ajax Amsterdam's Berry van Aerle in last year's European Cup-Winners' Cup won by Mechelen. Ohana is likely to play for Israel against the Socceroos on March 19.

NSL's Fair Play Cup

NSL general manager Peter Russell has announced the league will introduce a Fair Play Cup this season.

The trophy will be awarded at the end of the season to the team with the lowest total of penalty points against players.

"This is linked up with the FIFA Fair Play campaign around the world to reduce foul play and allow skilled players to show their ability," Russell explained.

"We feel it is in the interest of the clubs and the game to allow good football to be produced.

"In the first five weeks of the NSL competition, we have had one player sent off and three suspended for one match for exceeding the points level.

"It is the cleanest start to a season for many years and shows players and coaches are taking note of the campaign."

Russell said referees will continue to clamp down on any foul play during a game but there will not be any alteration to the penalty points allocated last season for different offences.

There had been talk of increasing the points for certain offences but this was not pursued with.

Russell said the NSL was also considering an award for the Team of the Month as well as listing the progress points of every club in the Fair Play campaign.

OUR WORLD CUP REFEREES

WE are now in a position to announce the full FIFA refereeing appointments for the Israel-New Zealand-Australia World Cup qualifiers.

In Tel Aviv on March 5, the Israel v New Zealand game will be controlled by S. Muhmenthaler from Switzerland with Swiss linesmen.

The FIFA commissar is H. Schmidt from West Germany.

On March 12, Australia v New Zealand will be referred by S. Takada of Japan with Japanese linesmen. The FIFA commissar is Peter Velappan, of Malaysia, who is also the secretary general of the Asian Football Confederation.

When Australia play Israel in Tel Aviv on March 19, the game will be refereed by Manfred Neumer of West Germany, assisted by his countrymen on the line. FIFA's representative will be Georgy Szepesi of Hungary.

There's a two-week break until April 2 when New Zealand play the Socceroos at home.

The referee will be M. Bin Singah, Singapore, with two Singapore linemen. The commissar — Sashi Singh, from Fiji.

CHARLIE DEMPSEY

When Israel visit New Zealand on April 9, the game will be under the control of Frenchman Claude Bouillet, assisted by linesmen M. Girard (France) and Carlo Longhi (Italy).

Sir Arthur George will represent FIFA.

The final match, on April 16, in Sydney will be refereed by Signor Longhi, of Italy, with Frenchmen Bouillet and Girard on the line. Commissar in charge will be Oceania Confederation supremo Charlie Dempsey of New Zealand.

Referee Carlo Longhi (right) remonstrating with Inter Milan's Beppe Baresi. He will referee the Australia v Israel match in Sydney.

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Warren fights for football

JOHN Warren's candidacy for the St George area federal seat of Barton as an independent received plenty of publicity in the Sydney media but one major plank of his agenda has been glossed over.

While much has been said about his stand for a third runway for Sydney aiport and his support by Sid Londish, the most vocal backer of what he now wishes to be known as the "parallel runway proposal", little or nothing has been heard of John Warren's other overriding concern.

Warren, St George-born and bred, does not see himself as a single issue candidate.

He is a man with a dual mission. He wants to use politics to end the discrimination against Soccer.

"I want to have a voice for my sport. It has been discriminated against. I want a voice for the Soccer fans."

John Warren rejects any suggestion that his campaign against Federal Minister for Aviation Gary Punch, who holds the seat by a wafer-thin majority, is a stunt.

"This is not a stunt. People who know me know I've always been my own man. I'm just after what I think is right."

Way to go, John...

— LOU GAUTIER

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Aussies' vital last warm-up

BY LOU GAUTIER

THE match tonight (Wednesday) against Swedish champions Malmo FF is the Socceroos' second and last build-up game before the 1989 qualifying campaign gets under way.

One cannot stress enough the significance of the game at Parramatta Stadium as it is Frank Arok's very last chance to "experiment" with his formation.

In the Melbourne match, Arok adopted "away" tactics in anticipation of the game against Israel in Tel Aviv on March 19 — tonight the match will be regarded as a "home" fixture, which means we will see more of an attacking game from the Socceroos.

However, this is easier said than done. It will really depend on Malmo, who will have ideas of their own and will be determined to avenge their defeat of last Friday.

One can only hope the crowd will be bigger tonight as the paltry attendance at Olympic Park was nothing less than a disgrace.

MARTIN DAHLIN

In view of the poor crowds at international games in Melbourne, maybe the ASF should consider Newcastle or Brisbane as a venue for "big games" when the touring team is not a big drawcard.

Let's hope that for the sake of the fans — and also the Socceroos — that Martin Dahlin, who was rather harshly sent off in Melbourne, is allowed to play tonight.

After all, this in only a friendly exhibition staged to prepare the Socceroos for the tough World Cup battles down the road.

The Australians can only benefit if Dahlin, Sweden's leading goalsorer last season, again leads the Malmo attack. Here's hoping that commonsense prevails...

Arok was happy with the opportunism of his strike force at Olympic Park, and Warren Spink in particular.

Here is a player with a flair for goals, who will convert half-chances against the tighest-marking defences.

Tonight's game is vital in the Socceroos' defensive scheme of things, even if we have been promised the return of skipper Charlie Yankos from Greece for all World Cup matches.

Yankos, however, can't be in too good a frame of mind these days as the coaching change at PAOK Salonika has seen him warming the bench in recent weeks.

Arok's Record 80th

TONIGHT'S match against Swedish champions Malmo FF at Parrammatta Stadium will be the 80th for Frank Arok's Socceroos.

No coach in any other Australian football code has served longer at the head of a national team and 80 internationals is an unattainable goal for rugby union and rugby league.

Yet Arok has notched up 79 games in five years with considerable success.

Under him, the Aussies have won 36 games, drawn 20 and lost 23.

His teams have scored 125 goals and conceded 75 at all international levels.

Forty four of those matches were full internationals, against national teams.

The Malmo game comes under the unoffficial friendly category, as did the 1988 matches against IFK Goteborg and Dinamo Zagreb.

Well done, Frank. We are looking forward to win number 37 tonight.

Marconi's Fred de Jong and Apia defender Mirko Radosvaljevic vie for possession at Marconi Stadium. Marconi won in a canter 5-0.

GODWIN D'AMATO Photo

Australia-Malmo FF 3-2

SPINK SINKS SWEDES

BY JOHN MANGAN

SOLID defending and a hefty dose of luck gave Australia an encouraging 3-2 victory over touring Swedish champions, Malmo FF, at Olympic Park on Friday night.

Malmo dominated both halves of the game as if they were the home team, thriving in the steamy Melbourne heat and Australia the side more used to playing in frozen Arctic conditions.

Nevertheless, the Swedes could not convert their territorial superiority into goals and from the first minute of play were at least one goal behind the Socceroos.

While Australian boss Frank Arok was cursing the defensive blunders which let the Swedes score twice, the performance showed that his team can soak up immense pressure from opposing attacks, and still be lethal on the break.

It was a curious game. Arok announced beforehand that he would be adopting a defensive formation as a dress-rehearsal for difficult away matches in the World Cup qualifiers.

With Graham Jennings and Alan Davidson playing fullback, Arok stacked the middle of the defence with Gary van Egmond, Wally Savor and Andy Koczka, with Andrew Bernal coming on for Jennings late in the game.

Malmo accepted the challenge and attacked Australia hammer and tongs from the kick-off, spurred on by a vocal zinc-creamed minority of the meagre 3000-strong crowd which turned out.

The Swedes lent support to the theory that club sides have an edge on national sides in terms of thinking like a team.

Certainly Roy Hodgson's outfit was far the better drilled unit, quicker and more aware of where team-mates were.

Arok, on the other hand, faces the problem that his best players are overseas and only available to him for short periods just before the most crucial games.

Consequently, new players such as Bernal, Koczka, Jason Polak and Paul Trimboli got a run, but they know they face an uphill struggle securing a regular spot in the line-up when the World Cup campaign begins.

One player looking very at home in the green and gold shirt is Preston Makedonia striker Warren Spink, who before the game had scored three goals in his four outings for the Socceroos.

He opened the game in explosive form, scoring after only 66 seconds when he latched onto a long throughball from captain Alan Davidson, angling it past Malmo goalkeeper Jonny Fedel to give the home side the lead.

Malmo surged back trying to make the most of indecision in the Australian defence.

Goalkeeper Jeff Olver was unable to hold a freekick from Malmo skipper Roger Ljung in the 37th minute while Olver's reflexes were again tested minutes later when striker Martin Dahlin connected with a cross from Jean Paul Vonderberg.

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Apia hit for five

BY LOU GAUTIER

FIVE-STAR performances by Zlatko Nastevski, Ian Gray and David Lowe yielded as many goals as Marconi thumped Apia Leichhardt 5-0 in a one-sided 'Italian' derby at Marconi Stadium last Saturday evening.

There was nothing in the first half hour or so to indicate the orgy of goals to come as both sides adopted spoiling tactics and nary a shot at goal was taken.

The floodgates opened in the 29th minute when Darren Stewart unnecessarily tripped Fred de Jong in the box and Nastevski converted from the penalty spot with a low shot inside the post.

Marconi went further ahead in the 34th minute with a classically-executed goal.

Gray found Lowe on the right and the nippy striker turned Mark Brown inside out before passing back to Gray who gave goalie Tony Pezzano no chance.

Marconi's third goal was another gem, scored into injury-time.

Lowe started the move and found Tommy McCulloch whose lob went back to Lowe who immediately passed it to the lurking Nastevski whose angled drive again crucified an increasingly agitated Pezzano, who had earlier received a yellow card for arguing with referee Rob Davies.

Davies was to also hand out cautions to John Kosmina, Stewart, Rod Brown and Craig Mason.

The second half had barely resumed when Fred de Jong worked the ball along the byline.

Pezzano, who claimed the ball had crossed the line, met him, but the ball rebounded on the path of Nastevski, who gratefully completed his hat-trick.

The bumper crowd was on its feet again 60 seconds later as the ever-present Nastevski beat three Apia defenders before cleverly back-heeling the ball to Gray, who make no mistake with his second goal.

So after 48 minutes, Marconi had made the most of every scoring opportunity to lead 5-0 and knock the stuffing out of their bedraggled opponents.

The scoreline was somewhat misleading as it did not quite reflect the gap between the teams.

It was just that on the day Marconi took their chances brilliantly while the Apia defenders were guilty of beginners' lapses.

Apia did try desperately in the last 20 minutes to salvage at least a consolation goal, but the Marconi defence stood its ground well.

Marconi coach Berti Mariani, who replaced both his goalscorers early in the second half, was delighted his players had finally converted their chances — something they didn't do in recent games.

The Apia locker room was closed to the press for a long time after the match as Mike Urukalo no doubt tongue-lashed his charges for a humiliating defeat.

MARCONI: Catlin, Carter, Gomez, Calderan, Wheatley, Gray (de Marigny 52), McCulloch, Nastevski (Colagiuri 65), de Jong, Katholos, Lowe.

APIA LEICHHARDT: Pezzano, Stewart, M.Brown, O'Connor, Radosavljevic, Craig, Bundalo (Webber 70), Eliem (Hagan 37), R.Brown, Kosmina, Ricoy.

Referee: R. Davies. Crowd: 7654.

Sydney Olympic's powerful young defender Andrew Bernal was in good form against Preston Makedonia last Sunday. The teams drew 1-1 at St George Stadium.

Crowd disturbance

Olympic luckless again

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

SYDNEY OLYMPIC's misfortune continued when they had to struggle to a 1-1 draw against Preston at St George Stadium, despite dominating in attack for most of the match.

"It's the same story all over again. We dominate play but once inside the box we just can't nail the goals we deserve for our effort," Thompson said.

"Marshall Soper deserved a blatant penalty in the second half when crudely barrelled by a Preston defender.

"We had all the first half only to panic in our finishing. As far as the second half goes it was all Sydney Olympic, but again no luck inside the box."

Preston's coach, Andon Doncevski, reflected after the match: "The wind out there was very bad but for me it was a good game with the correct score.

"One point for away matches and two at home is very good for my team. We deserved this draw."

Very early in the match Soper had a great close-range chance to open his team's account, but Preston's acrobatic goalkeeper, Phil Triainides, stole the ball off the fiery striker's shooting boot.

Against the run of play, Preston scored in the 38th minute through pacey midfielder, Andrew Zinni.

Zinni cracked a rocketing 20 metre drive which ricochetted off Olympic's central defender Andrew Bernal and crashed into the net.

Minutes after halftime, a burning flare was tossed into the Preston goalmouth, immediately sparking off a nasty crowd disturbance between the jostling supporters of both clubs.

Referee John McConnell held up play for a few minutes, until ground police separated the antagonists to restore law and order.

Olympic finally equalised through substitute Grant Lee ten minutes from full time.

The blond striker collected a poor clearance by the Preston defence five metres outside the box to unleash a powerful drive that hit the target.

With two minutes to go and following a corner on the right, Robbie Ironside went perilously close with a header which shaved the left post and went just short of Lee's reach.

Almost right on full-time, again from a corner on the right, another Ironside header was magnificently saved by Triainides.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

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National League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi	6	4	1	1	13	4	9
Melbourne Croatia	6	3	2	1	15	9	8
Sydney Croatia	6	3	2	1	4	1	8
St George	6	3	2	1	7	5	8
Preston	6	3	1	2	7	6	7
Apia Leichhardt	6	3	1	2	8	9	7
Sydney Olympic	6	2	2	2	7	4	6
Wollongong City	6	2	2	2	5	4	6
Blacktown	6	3	0	3	8	15	6
Sunshine GC	6	2	1	3	6	7	5
South Melbourne	6	2	1	3	8	7	5
Melbourne City	6	1	2	3	6	8	4
Adelaide City	6	1	1	4	6	9	3
Heidelberg	6	1	0	5	4	16	2

Results

MARCONI 5 (Z. Nastevski 3, I. Gray 2) APIA LEICHHARDT 0 at Marconi Stadium. Crowd: 7654.

WOLLONGONG CITY 0 SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS 0 at Brandon Park. Crowd: 1412.

BLACKTOWN CITY 2 (R. Naumov, J. van Blerk) HEIDELBERG 1 (J. Stewart) at Olympic Village. Crowd: 2568.

MELBOURNE JUST 0 ST GEORGE 0 at Schintler Reserve. Crowd: 1514.

MELBOURNE CROATIA 0 SYDNEY CROATIA 0 at Somers Street Stadium. Crowd: 8000.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1 (G. Lee) PRESTON MAKEDONIA 1 (A. Zinni) at St George Stadium. Crowd: 5549.

ADELAIDE CITY 2 (N. Flounders, S. Melta) SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 2 (A. Postecoglou, P. Foster) at Hindmarsh Stadium. Crowd: 4000.

Top Scorers

IVAN KELIC	Melbourne Croatia	8
ZLATKO NASTEVSKI	Marconi	5
SCOTT OLLERENSHAW	St George	4
MATT BINGLEY	St George	3
MILAN DIMOSKI	Melbourne C JUST	3
IAN GRAY	Marconi	3
JOHN KOSMINA	Apia Leichhardt	3
DAMIAN MORI	South Melbourne	3
WARREN SPINK	Preston Makedonia	3

Crowds

ROUND 6: 31,697
AVERAGE PER GAME: 4,526

TOTAL ATTENDANCE (6 ROUNDS): 147,384

BIG NSL CROWDS

NSL attendances have caught fire with 31,697 watching last weekend's round despite unsettled weather on Sunday when six of the seven matches were played.

The six rounds to date have been seen by 147,384 spectators — or an average attendance of 24,564 per round.

In 1988 the average attendance per round was just over 19,000.

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Saints not sympathetic

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

ST GEORGE, who clash with League strugglers Heidelberg United on Sunday at the St George Stadium, will be in no mood to be sympathetic, according to coach Frank Arok.

"Heidelberg have attracted much sympathy as they've recorded only two League points after six rounds," Arok said.

"But over the last few days they have massively stiffened their side with no less than six signings which may prove threatening to us."

Arok was referring to new men Garry McDowall, Alan Scott, Peter Tredinnick, John Stewart, Ron Campbell and George Kalogeros.

This match resembles a "David vs Goliath" clash with Heidelberg in theory taking the role of 'David'.

"It's a complicated situation as we are high on the NSL ladder whilst they already are being confronted with prospects of relegation," commented Arok.

Whilst Heidelberg's coach, former international defender Jim Tansey, has much new material added to his squad, Arok also will have some selection problems, as many of his players are pressing for inclusion.

Right back David Green last week made a comeback from injury, and strikers John Kakakios and Tony Krslovic, as well as defender Jim Morakeas will push hard to get into the first X1.

Andrew Koczka.

Saints will be somewhat disadvantaged as three of their players will play for Australia tonight against Swedish champions Malmo, with Arok anxiously hoping no injuries are sustained by his clubmen.

Andy Koczka and Scott Ollerenshaw will play tonight. Goalkeeper Gibson is also expected to come on in the second half against the Swedes.

Tapai shines in 0-0 draw

BY PETER DESIRA

ERNIE Tapai turned on the style in front of national coach Frank Arok on Sunday to stake a strong claim for another chance in the Socceroos' starting line-up.

Tapai played for the Socceroos in China in 1987 but has since only been on the fringe of the national squad after an indifferent 1988.

All that is changing this season with Tapai looking fitter and hungrier than in '87 when he was voted the NSL's "most entertaining player."

On Sunday he played his best game of the season for Melbourne JUST against Arok's St George at Schintler Reserve.

The match finished scoreless in a round when goals were a rarity, but Tapai helped turned the tide to make JUST the dominant side after its three successive defeats when it was largely unable to get its game together.

Tapai's good first half form forced Arok to switch Allan Pottier into marking the midfielder but Tapai continued to taunt and weave his way down the right side almost at will.

JUST had the lion's share of possession in the game with Luciano Fabrizio and Drago Deankovic coming forward from the back and Kenny Murphy also having a good game in midfield.

Only a strong defensive performance by the St George backline led by Andy Koczka and shyness in front of goal prevented JUST from really testing Mike Gibson in the St George goal.

Murphy hit a drive which Gibson turned away for a corner in the 22nd minute in one of JUST's two direct strikes on goal in the first half.

From the other openings created, Oscar Crino headed wide, Joe Palatsides hit a volley over the bar, Milan Dimoski failed to control a good centre and attempts by Fabrizio and Mehmet Durakovic were blocked.

St George relied on breakaways for its attacks but Zoran Nikitovic coped comfortably with long-range shots until the 51st minute when the visitors created the clearest cut chance of the game.

Scott Ollerenshaw's cross from the left found Matthew Bingley and the young striker's shot beat the keeper but the ball was cleared off the line by Gary Van Egmond. Bingley ran onto the clearance but sent his second shot over the bar.

Tapai cut inside from the right to fire a shot from the edge of the box, but JUST's best chance came in the 68th minute when Dimoski made a run from deep and hit a shot past Gibson which skimmed just past the far post.

Oscar Crino, recovering from illness which prevented him playing for the Socceroos on Friday, managed to see the whole game through, and showed signs that he is recapturing his old form.

Apart from Koczka, St George's best players were David Green who kept a tight grip on Bill Lazopoulos and Mike O'Shea in the centre of the defence.

MELBOURNE JUST: Nikitovic; Durakovic (Mitrovski 70), Deankovic, Van Egmond, Fabrizio, Tapai, Murphy, Crino, Dimoski, Palatsides, Lazopoulos.

ST GEORGE: Gibson, Green, Koczka, M. O'Shea, Grbevski, Moffitt, Ratcliffe, Pottier, Bingley (Harper 76), Ilic, (Krslovic 72), Ollerenshaw.

Crowd: 1514.

Chances go begging at Brandon Park

BY PHIL MURPHY

IT was a dismal afternoon all round as Wollongong City and Sunshine battled out a scoreless draw at Brandon Park on Sunday.

Both sides gave the impression they have made up their minds they have to stave off relegation, a strong wind blew down the ground and it seemed referee Arthur Owens couldn't please anyone.

Rival coaches, John Fleming (Wollongong) and John Gardiner (Sunshine) were critical of the referee's performance, as were players on both sides and the crowd booed him off the field.

While it wasn't a good day for Soccer, the teams should have performed better and couldn't blame the referee for the inept passing and poor finishing.

"We weren't physical enough around their penalty box and our goalscoring record this season is terrible," Fleming said.

Gardiner said it was a real battle from two very similar teams, and things are going to get tougher for both as the season goes on.

Wollongong did look more purposeful than the visitors and had a good early chance when Danny Crainie shot weakly at goalkeeper Sean Keogh from just five metres.

Towards the end, centre-half Robert Giraldi flicked a great chance over the top when he should have done a lot

CONTINUED PAGE 17

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Defences control Croatian derby

BY JOHN MANGAN

THE two Croatias, Melbourne and Sydney, slogged it out to share the spoils in a 0-0 draw at Melbourne Croatia's new Somers Steet ground, in a game more influenced by the strong wind than by the parade of some of Australian Soccer's finest talent on display.

Many more fans made the trip to see this battle than ventured to Olympic Park on Friday to match the Socceroos beat Malmo FF, but unlike the Olympic Park faithful, the Croatia fans went home having seen little in the way of goalmouth thrills.

Melbourne Croatia's tall strike-force, Ivan Kelic and Francis Aweritefe, who have done so much damage against the likes of Blacktown, failed to deliver on a day when every ball above shoulder height became totally unpredictable.

Consequently, Sydney Croatia defenders Alan Hunter and Mark Jones had no trouble at all keeping the lid on the home team's striking duo.

Alan Davidson reigned supreme at the heart of the Melbourne defence, keeping his cool at all times while fullback Paul Donnelly saved Melbourne Croatia's bacon more than once.

There is little love lost between these two teams and the game was frequently interrupted by niggling fouls, though nothing serious erupted — a credit to the refereeing of John Santa Isabel.

Sydney Coratia could not afford any new injuries. They went into the game without both Robbie Slater and Manis Lamond.

With the wind behind them, Sydney Croatia had the better of the first half, though Awaritefe looked dangerous on the break.

In the 20th minute only quick thinking by Sydney keeper Tony Franken saved the visitors as he came well off his line to thwart the striker.

The visitors' best opportunity came in the 36th minute when power-house Graham Arnold flashed a shot across the face of goal as Shane Clinch came steaming in at the far post — but the chance went begging.

In the second half Sydney Croatia's Craig Johnston look-alike, Craig Foster, hit a high ball into the area for Sean Ingham but his shot flew over the bar.

Otherwise, the home team dominated the half and Sydney player-coach Vedran Rozic after the game seemed happy with a point.

His Melbourne counterpart, Ivan Raznjevic, lamented the early chances his side squandered but felt it was a respectable result for his team.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Olver, Donnelly, Cannell, Valentic, Opasinis, Davidson, Milosevic, Biskic, Caleta, Awaritefa, Kelic (Duzel 88).

SYDNEY CROATIA: Franken, Savor, Jennings, Hunter, Rozic, Clinch, Petkovic, Jones, Arnold, Foster, Ingham.

Referee: John Santa Isabel. Crowd: 8000.

Tony Pezzano doing what he, alas, did best last Saturday — picking the ball out of his net. Marconi slammed five goals past the Apia Leichhardt goalkeeper in the "Italian Derby". — Photo by Godwin d'Amato

Three-ring circus

BY GREG BLAKE

WHEN it comes to finding bizarre and almost perverse ways of losing football games, you need to look no further than the three-ring circus called Heidelberg.

Anything that can go wrong, will when you're stuck at the foot of the table.

And for the Bergers it all went terribly wrong again last Sunday when they fell to a last minute 2-1 defeat at home to fellow NSL newcomer Blacktown City.

After leading early and looking as good as it had done all season, Heidelberg left it until exactly two minutes and 23 seconds into second half injury-time before dashing its supporters' hopes once again.

Blacktown's Jason van Blerk, who had muffed a simple chance to score just after half time, was allowed to waltz past three defenders on a mazy run from almost the half line before he tucked away his most extraordinary winner.

And the contrast after the game was dramatic.

Heidelberg supporters gathered in the social club to (loudly) voice their anger at another defeat and Bergers boss Jim Tansey locked his charges away for some stern words for a full 20 minutes after the end of the game.

Down the corridor, Blacktown's heroes were in high spirits after coming back from the brink but even Les Scheinflug knew it was a line ball.

"Of course, I'm pleased — this was really a four-pointer for us," Scheinflug said with relief.

"We played a very poor first half but we improved after half-time and to come from behind is good for morale".

For vanquished Heidelberg the news wasn't all bad.

John Stewart grabbed his first goal for his new club and the Bergers thoroughly deserved their 37th minute lead.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 17

Souths snatch late point

BY ALAN CLARK

THE national pilots' strike forced South Melbourne to take the long bus ride home from Adelaide on Sunday.

But coach Brian Garvey and his boys would be happy travellers after coming back from the dead to snare a 2-2 draw against Adelaide City at Hindmarsh.

Toast of the trip would have been Socceroo Angie Postecoglou and young substitute Paul Foster.

Postecoglou scored the equaliser in the last minute with a free-kick from just outside the area, after giant City keeper Robert Zabica had overbalanced and stepped outside his box to gather a speculative pass.

Foster, brought on for tiring younster Damian Mori after 70 minutes, celebrated three minutes later with his first NSL goal.

The former AIS boy, 21, brilliantly finished off a scintillating move by Paul Trimboli and the best striker on show, Danny Wright.

City looked to have the game in their grasp.

The usual Adelaide method of play was blown away as giant goalkeeper Zabica launched attacks with gale-assisted missiles off his boot.

There were thrills for the fans with the old-fashioned up and unders.

Then defender Neville Flounders had the City faithful ecstatic in 18 minutes with a superb driven goal from 25 metres.

Zabica saved spectacularly from Wright, Bugsy Nyskohus cleared off the line from Bobby Russell and Bruce McLaren made a save from Charley Villani that had his opposite number Zabica clapping before City went further ahead in the 54th minute.

A rare Angie Postecoglou mistake was punished by Villani who drifted over a cross that captain Sergio Melta eventually forced home with assistance on way from out of touch Aurelio Vidmar.

The game looked to be slipping from South Melbourne until Foster was introduced and coach Brian Garvey switched Dave Healy into midfield with Russell going into defence.

That was the tonic his side later could toast.

Referee Donald Campbell was a delight, playing good advantage and always letting the game flow. His only booking was McLaren for a hefty tackle on Vidmar outside the area.

City coach Zoran Matic was stunned his side again could lose a goal at the death, following similar tragedies this season already against Blacktown and Sydney Croatia.

"We were winning 2-1 and we told them there was only four minutes to go, why did they keep rushing into attack looking for another goal?" *he asked himself in the* quiet of the home dressing room.

"We played a bit better, though we still are mishitting that final pass."

Hellas coach Brian Garvey was satisfied with his side's recovery.

"We were shocked last week by a powerfully hit shot and the same happened again. Those ones either go in or go anywhere," he said.

"Really, though, if we had scored our second a little bit earlier we could have won."

ADELAIDE CITY: Zabica, Naven, Tobin, Nyskohus, Flounders, Melta, Northcote (Santrac 85), Villani, Mullen (Vial 52), Maxwell, Vidmar.

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS: McLaren, Russell, Postecoglou, Anezakis, Blair, Healy, Michell, Petersen, Trimboli, Wright, Mori (Foster 70).

Referee: D. Campbell. Crowd: 4000.

JOE MULLEN (Adelaide City) and Steve Blair

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Life begins anew for gutsy Mehmet

BY GREG BLAKE

AS Mehmet Durakovic will readily admit, as a player he's more a Paul Wade than an Oscar Crino.

Not that he purports to put himself in that class of player yet, but it is an ample description of his style.

A gritty, gutsy, tenacious defender is the 24-year-old Melbourne JUST defender and probably just the type of fighter JUST needs to bolster its line-up.

Anybody who has regularly watched JUST's pretty but spineless displays of recent years will welcome the addition of a player of Durakovic's calibre.

A player who'll put himself in for the tackle, who'll hustle and harass and, as he puts it," try to give 110 percent".

For the former Juventus champion, at JUST on a one-year loan agreement, 1989 is the chance to prove himself all over again.

The stigma of being in a relegated NSL team will stick unless he does — and now he's got a place in the Socceroo train — on squad to keep him busy.

"My goal has always been making the Aussie squad", he says.

"And now I've been called up for the Melbourne camps, I've got to make the best of it as I mightn't get another chance.

"I left Juventus so I could stay in the NSL and get this chance and now it's up to me."

Leaving Juventus wasn't the easiest decision in the world for Mehmet, a former medal winner at that club.

Juve tried to coax him and close friend Joe Palatsides into sticking it out in the 1989 State League.

"1988 was a nightmare. Things went terribly wrong for Juventus," he explained.

"They are a top club and I'm sad they went down, but my priority is to play in the national team and to do that I had to stay in the NSL".

Despite a sense of deja-vu stemming from JUST's less than impressive start to the season, Durakovic believes there'll be no repeat of the disaster that befell Juventus last season.

"We'll bounce back", he says confidently.

"There'll be no repeat of last year — it's a new club for me, but it's on its way up and we're preparing for a big year."

Tough for promoted clubs

BY GREG RUSSELL

THE switch of the National League to a *summer* season this year is set to work against the successful return to the competition of *any State League* sides.

That's the opinion of officials with leading Queensland clubs, Brisbane City and Lions, who will be given less than two weeks to prepare for an NSL return should they win the promotion play-offs.

Under the dates set down for the change of NSL seasons, the first summer Soccer competition will start on November 3.

The Queeensland Soccer Federation's grand final is set down for October 1, and in the past the state champions have not been freed to contest the promotion play-offs until after their local season has finished. The situation no doubt will be the same in Victoria and South Australia.

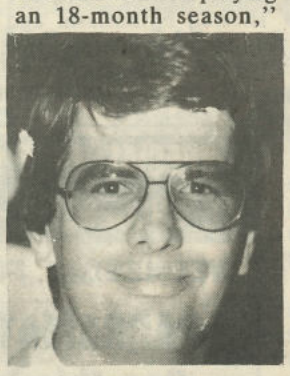
Should the NSL promotion series be a three-way play-off involving the Victorian and South Austalian champions along with Queensland's representatives, then it would seem likely at least two of the remaining three weekends in October would be used to play that series, along with a mid-week tie.

That would leave the winner just two weeks to reassemble for the start of the NSL.

"It's grossly unfair," said Brisbane City secretary John Ponturo, "the timing makes it very difficult for any side to make a successful return to the NSL."

Lions secretary Lawrence Oudendyk believes the timing will put an enormous strain on the successful club.

"Players with the winning team are going to find themselves playing an 18-month season,"



LAWRIE OUDENDYK

he said. "No sooner will they have finished the intensive promotion play-offs after a long season, they will find themselves thrown into a new NSL season against players who have been resting since August.

"That's going to make it very difficult for any new team to survive, irrespective of the strength of their playing staff."

Unless the transfer rules are changed, the State League hopefuls also will find themselves severely disadvantaged in trying to strenghten their squads to NSL standard. In fact, whatever players they have on their books at the June 30 transfer deadline will be in their side for the opening NSL fixture, should they be the successful team in the play-offs.

And even if they seek to make last-minute signings, almost certainly any players of any quality will already have been snapped up by existing NSL clubs during the August-October off-season.

"It's hard enough to attract players away from Sydney and Melbourne, let alone at short notice," Oudendyk said. "If a Brisbane or Adelaide club wins the promotion play-offs, they will have very limited opportunities to strengthen their teams. It's really going to be a battle for survival."

Australian Soccer Federation chairman Ian Brusasco said he was aware of the problems which may confront clubs aspiring to NSL promotion this year, but could offer no magical solution.

"There has to be a period of transition. The dates are a fact of life and clubs will have to accept them for this season," he said. "But once we get a few other things sorted out at ASF level, then I hope to have a good look at the National League and I am sure this problem is one which will be examined closely."

DID YOU KNOW?

— That Australia's biggest defeat was against a touring English XI?

The match was played on a heavy ground in Sydney in 1950, and the score was 17-0.

Focus on

MEHMET DURAKOVIC (Melbourne City JUST)

PLAYER PROFILE

NAME: Mehmet Durakovic
BIRTH DATE: 13.10.65 Montenegro, Yugoslavia
HEIGHT: 1.73m, 70kgs
MARRIED: Yes, to Zumreta
HOME: Sunshine, Victoria
CAR: Volvo
NICKNAME: Yugs or Mem
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Pt Melbourne and Brunswick Juventus
OCCUPATION: VDU operator
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Steve Blair
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Cricket and golf
FAVOURITE GROUND: Middle Park
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Queensland
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Rock
FAVOURITE POSITION: Right-back
ACTOR/ESS: Tom Cruise/Bridgette Nielson
FAVOURITE MOVIE: Cocktail
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Cosby Show
FAVOURITE DISH: Spaghetti & pizza
FAVOURITE DRINK: Coke
LIKES: Winning
DISLIKES: Losing
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: The first leg of 1985 grand final in Sydney when Brunswick Juventus beat Sydney City 1-0.
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Getting relegated
WORST INJURY: Ankle, six weeks out
MOST PROMISING TEAM-MATE: Joe Palatsides
HARDEST OPPONENT: Frank Farina
FAVOURITE ALL-TIME PLAYERS: Pele & Drago Sekularac
BOOT TYPE: Puma
AMBITIONS FOR '89: To win the NSL with Melbourne JUST
LONG-TERM AMBITIONS: *To make the Australian team and to play Soccer for as long as I can.*

Tansey battles on

BY GREG BLAKE

HEIDELBERG boss Jim Tansey has branded as rubbish a newspaper report in the Greek newspaper 'Neos Kosmos' which suggested he was keen to resign from the post.

Speaking just hours after Heidelberg's stunning last-minute home loss to Blacktown on Sunday, Tansey dismissed the rumours but added that he "would do it (resign) if I felt it was in the best interests of the club".

"Obviously, I'm really disappointed about the results but I certainly haven't considered resigning yet", he told ASW. "But the next couple of weeks are critical."

Tansey's basement-dwelling team put together its best effort of the season before falling to an injury-time goal by Jason van Blerk on Sunday.

After the game, Tansey locked his players away while angry supporters voiced their opinions outside the change rooms.

"We are not about to panic yet — we are united and we're still backing the coach and the players," said team manager Jim Kriaris.

"We played one of our best games for the year but there are always one or two supporters intent on causing trouble".

Despite the show of strength, the Bergers, who've already conceded that some of their players aren't up to NSL standard, are likely to bring in further changes to an ailing first team.

Newcomers John Stewart and Alan Scott, two of Heidelberg's best on Sunday, will be joined by George Kalogeros and Peter Tredinnick, who both started Sunday's game on the bench.

Tredinnick was outstanding after coming on with 20 minutes to play.

And the Bergers are hoping that both Garry McDowell and Ronnie Campbell will be ready for first team duty within four weeks with both players commencing training for the first time this week.

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Penalty saga at Polonia

POLONIA is still in with a chance of taking out one of the semi-final spots after its 5-2 win over Avala at Chopin Park last Saturday afternoon.

The difference between the two sides appeared to be in the penalties handed out as Polonia were given three of them, all dully converted by their star midfielder Lesek Kulwicki.

It was Pavel Janduda who was pulled down on each occasion and Kulwicki who made sure from the penalty spot, the first of them in the 14th minute of the first half.

Kulwicki added two more, in the 55th and 73rd.

Konstantin Dragomirescu equalised for Avala after 16 minutes to make it 1-1, and managed to keep Polonia on its toes for most of the first half but as the game wore on it was Avala's lack of fitness which proved decisive.

Six minutes before half-time Alan Robertson fed Darren Pratt on the flank. Following the cross, Stefan Janic moved in to slam the ball past Woodhouse to give Polonia the lead.

Two more penalties from Kulwicki saw the scoreline move to 4-1 before Pratt squeezed one under the body of Avala keeper for the fifth.

Avala replied in the dying seconds of the match through Chris Kelly, far too late of course.

Avala's cause was not helped in the second half when Dennis Rix was sent off in the 54th minute.

POLONIA: Thurlow, Chou (C.Thompson), M.Pratt, Robertson, Lasek, G.Thompson, Anderson, Kulwicki, Janic, Janduda (Senoi), D.Pratt.

AVALA: Woodhouse, Quarmby, Henderson, Rix (sent off 54th), Atlagic, Ashton, Driene (Radic), Brockbank, Fitzharris, Ackerley, Dragomirescu (Kelly).

Giampaolo shines

SEBASTIAN Giampaolo scored a goal and was one of the best players in Inter Monaro's deserved 1-1 draw with Sutherland at Kelly Park last Saturday afternoon.

The Rothmans Medal winner of 1988 was in superb touch as he roamed about the field, creating havoc in Sutherland's defence and setting up several goalscoring opportunities for his team-mates.

Alas, none of his colleagues were on the same wavelength...

At the other end of the field, it was Peter Terry who shone.

His general play and the manner in which he guided his young defence was superb.

Roy Cotton was another player who showed flashes of briliance and his forward foray in the 63rd minute should have been enough to give the Sharks the two points.

He raced past a sieve-like defence but was fouled from behind. The ball fell to Daryl Sharpe and the referee allowed the play to go on.

However, Bruno Carbone managed to save from Sharpe only to see Wayne Parsons tuck away the rebound.

Only three minutes later Cotton was through again but his shot sailed wide.

Inter Monaro celebrated a minute later. Attilio Carbone's corner kick was headed forward by Angelo Titilas and Giampaolo was on hand to head past the advancing keeper for the equaliser.

Inter Monaro had more of the play in the closing stages but failed to find the net from many openings and the same could be said for Sutherland who wasted some opportunities late in the first half.

SUTHERLAND: Nofke, Carrol, Edmunds, Terry, Nelson (Biscaya), Parsons, Meades, Hutchison, Sharpe, Cotton, Leney.

INTER MONARO: B.Carbone, Arthur, Monterosso, T.Popovic, Titilas, P.Thompson (Valeri), Djordjeski, Alchin, N.Popovic (Brennan), A.Carbone, Giampaolo.

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Central Coast

THE ambitious Central Coast Association club, now in the NSW State League Third Division, holds its official launch night at the Ourimbah Lisarow RSL Club on Saturday, March 4 at 7pm.

The Central Coast has achieved the first leg of its long-sought programme by entering the NSW competitions, and is determined to move ahead from there.

Club chairman is Bill Northam, whose son Darren is the ex-Young Socceroo and Blacktown City left back.

BAS GIAMPAOLO, as ever in the middle of the action for his club. The other player involed is 1987 Rothmans Medalist Alan Reis.

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AUSTRAL UNITED S.F.C.

What a bore...

Drago Zulj was one the few Uruguay Penrith players to stand out against Newcastle Austral last weekend.

NEWCASTLE AUSTRAL registered its third win in a row by beating Uruguay Penrith 2-0 at Melita Stadium last Sunday, but neither side could raise the spirits of the few hundred spectators during a boring game.

Andrew Tonks found the net after a melee inside the Uruguay penalty area. Wayne Bailey failed to beat the keeper from close range and Tonks potted in the rebound in the 3rd minute to send Newcastle one up at half-time.

Doug Elphick made it 2-0 on the stroke of an hour with a despairing dive by Anthony George failing to stop the ball on the line.

And that was just about all that happened in the match.

Mistimed tackles, misdirected passes and wasted opportunities were in evidence throughout.

And while Willie Gallagher can still afford to smile with six points out of three matches, Phil Bottalico must wonder what to do to give his side a much needed lift.

Paul Benitez, Drago Zulj and, to a lesser extent, Bruno Volloder showed enthusiasm and creativity while the rest battled on gamely.

David Bowen, David Jones and Andrew Tonks were best for Newcastle Austral.

NEWCASTLE AUSTRAL: Carter, Bowen (Roberts), Jones, Achurch, Boogaard, Devon (Bland), Tonks, Elphick, Bailey, Camlakamis, Virgilli.

URUGUAY PENRITH: Zabala, Gonzalez (Kealy), George, Mentesdeoca, Zulj, Garcia, Zullo, Volloder, Benitez, Batista (Yuletian).

Austral sponsors

IN NEWCASTLE next Friday, Thursday 28, the Austral United SFC will hold a special media function to introduce their 1989 sponsors.

Players, coaching staff and management personnel will be on hand as well.

The club is up and running extremely well.

Long-serving president Con Mitsios is at the helm and treasurer is Bob Frame, who was *one of the stars of yesteryear* when Wallsend so often reigned supreme in NSW.

Secretary is Dave McQuire, the former South Coast United and Apia Leichhardt goalkeeper.

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RESULTS ROUND 3

GROUP A:
Rockdale Ilinden v Canterbury 3-0, Wollongong Macedonia v Croatia Canberra 6-1, Inter Monaro v Sutherland 1-1.

TABLE:

Rockdale Ilinden	3	3	0	0	8-1	9
Sutherland Shire	3	2	1	0	6-2	7
Wollongong Macedonia	3	1	0	2	8-6	3
Canterbury M'ville	3	1	0	2	3-7	3
Canberra Croatia	3	1	0	2	4-8	3
Inter Monaro	3	0	1	2	1-6	1

GROUP B:
Polonia v Avala 5-2. Melita Eagles v Freshwater 1-1, Uruguay Penrith 0 Newcastle 2.

TABLE:

Newcastle Austral	3	3	0	0	5-1	9
Melita Eagles	3	2	1	0	5-2	7
Polonia	3	2	0	1	7-4	6
Warringah Freshwater	3	1	1	1	3-3	4
Uruguay	3	0	0	3	1-5	0
Avala	3	0	0	3	3-9	0

Warringah upset over referee

"OH, what a referee" was the chant inside the Warringah Freshwater dressing room as players sat on their benches following their hard-fought 1-1 draw with Melita Eagles last Sunday night.

"I believe this is one of the worst refereeing performances I have seen for a long time and we will examine the posibility of sending in the strongest of protests to the Referees Federation as well as the NSW Soccer Federation," an official of the Warringah Freshwater club said after the match.

In a game which pitted the might of Melita against the best North Side could offer, few would argue about the quality of the football on show, but some of the decisions handed down by referee Arthur Xanthos were controversial to say the least.

Freshwater shocked the group B leaders with a goal after 17 minutes. Frank Cassachia's pass to Jimmy Campbell was quickly lobbed to Stephen Knight who raced inside the penalty area to nudge the ball over the head of McPherson and into the net.

Then came a series of fabulous saves by Dragan Pupovac to deny Melita.

He was at the feet of Greg Brown in the 18th minute, then repeated the dose with Craig Williams in the 32nd, but nothing matched his two superb saves from the hotly disputed penalty in the 36th minute.

Wayne Pierce and Gimenez went for the ball and the Freshwater defender appeared to hit the ball against the legs of Gimenez.

The Melita player stumbled and the referee pointed to the spot. He was surrounded by Freshwater players who protested against the decision, but to no avail.

Pupovac saved brilliantly off Greg Brown, diving to his right, then did the same diving to his left as Mr. Xanthos asked for the kick to be re-taken.

In the meantime, Pupovac appeared to be hit by two late challenges close to half-time and had to receive attention, but the referee appeared not to be concerned.

It was Pupovac again who bravely dived at the feet of Rago in the 57th, then came out to impede Greg Brown in the 76th minute.

Melita equalised through the enterprising Andrew Callanan, but even then he needed two shots to beat Pupovac.

His first was brilliantly saved but he managed to put in the rebound with just seven minutes remaining.

Overall, Melita had the teritorial advantage but as Raul Blanco, the Melita coach observed after the match: "Freshwater played a sound tactical game and deserved its point."

Alan Dean was at his best to subdue Greg Brown, Melita's star striker, while Robbie Stuart and Steve Knight played soundly throughout the match.

For Melita, few shone in an uneventful first half but Washington Gonzalez, Andrew Callanan and Craig Williams did not put a foot wrong all day.

Melita's late replacement, Anthony Cabassi, showed enterprise in the closing stages but failed to finish off some good moves.

MELITA EAGLES: McPherson, Rodriguez, Williams, Barrios, Gonzalez, Callanan, Rago (Cabassi), J.Cerro, G.Cerro, Gimenez, Brown.

WARRINGAH FRESHWATER: Pupovac, Pierce, Knight, McCue, Dean, Sutherland, Campbell, Etherington (M.Pillemer), Cassachia, Cimarosti, Stuart (Glassock).

Melita, Ilinden there already

MELITA Eagles and Rockdale Ilinden have secured semi-final positions and Newcastle Austral and Sutherland or Wollongong Macedonia look like joining them there.

Ilinden is sitting safely in top spot on six points and should not have too much trouble retaining first place with Sutherland and Canberra Croatia as their last two hurdles.

Sutherland has five points and is three points clear of Wollongong Macedonia and Canberra but must take at least one point in the remaining matches against Ilinden and Macedonia to stay there.

In group B there are quite a few combinations. Melita, with Uruguay Penrith and Newcastle still on its agenda, should lead the group at the end of the fifth round. Newcastle must secure one point from Melita or Polonia to make sure of a semi berth.

Should Newcastle lose against both, it will open the door for Polonia, with Freshwater an outside chance to cause problems for any of the top three clubs.

On paper, Rockdale should face Newcastle in one semi-final and Melita should tackle Sutherland in the other.

The Hills for Third Division

A NEW club from The Hills has been accepted into the third division Soccer competition this year, with coach Tim Breen calling the shots.

Hills United, an amalgamation of Baulkham Hills and Castle Hill, will play its home games at the Fred Caterson Reserve in Castle Hill.

Baulkham Hills Sporting Club and Castle Hill Soccer Club got together in August to plan the move.

Hills' United's opponents will include teams from Mt Druitt, Moorebank, Southern Districts and a new team — Central Coast.

TIM BREEN

Tim Breen is one of a handful of people in Australia with a full English Football Association coach's badge. He coached Granville last year, but has a virtual lifetime's experience in the game.

He played for Chelsea, Tooting and Mitcham, Bromley, Carshalton Athletic and Whytelecafe in the Vauxhall Opel League and Redhill, Croydon Amateurs and Mersham in the Atenian League.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

FLETCHER HAT-TRICK!

GRAEME Fletcher, the off-season purchase from St George, was easily the best player on the field as he played havoc with Canberra Croatia's defence to score three goals in Wollongong Macedonia's 6-1 victory at Kelly Park last Saturday.

Wollongong Macedonia, hailed as one of the early candidates for State League and Challenge Cup honours, failed to impress in its previous two outings but came back with vengeance against an out of touch Canberra Croatia outfit.

Graeme Fletcher

John McKie opened the scoring after just two minutes when his 30-metre thunderbolt suprised Tony Giannasca to settle under the crossbar.

Three minutes later, Fletcher pounced on a loose ball to steer his shot wide of the keeper and send the local, 500-strong crowd into a frenzy.

A further five minutes into the match saw Jason Dunn plant his backpass wide of Giannasca and the ball ended in the far corner of the net to give Macedonia an unassailable lead.

Canberra came back into the match and was close to scoring in the 20th minute when George Kulcsar found some space inside the penalty area, but failed to find the net.

Fletcher was through in the 31st to provide a centimetre-perfect pass for Paul Kay, but the hard-working midfielder only managed to tap the ball into the hands of Giannasca.

Ian Shaw was the lucky goal scorer three minutes before half-time as a Canberra clearance hit his leg and rebounded into the Croatia net for the 4-0 half-time scoreline!

Almost from the kick-off in the second period Fletcher sped past the Canberra defence to slam an unstoppable left footer which crashed into the net just under the crossbar.

Then Paul Kay collected the ball midfield after barnstorming his way past several defenders and pushed it to Fletcher who raced in and crashed the ball past the keeper with his right foot.

With 27 minutes remaining Macedonia led 6-0 and looked hungry for more goals, but Lemezina made it 6-1 from a goalmouth scramble to give Croatia its consolation goal before some heart-stopping action at the other end saw Fletcher come close to scoring on two occasions.

His 76th minute effort left the Canberra goalie gasping for air as the ball thundered against the underside of the crossbar down to the line and out.

I am sure he will not complain about his bad luck as his side emerged clear-cut winners and are still in with an outside chance of getting into the semi-finals.

There was hardly a weak spot in the Macedonia outfit, with Paul Mears certainly amongst the best. He managed to keep an eye on Perinovic and Reis, the two star strikers from Canberra, and did his job perfectly, though at times he may have been a a trifle too enthusiastic in his tackling.

WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA: Burchmore, Shaw (Cavanah), Galway, Mears, Wilson, Slaveski, Thornthwaite, Kay, Sandy, Fletcher, McKie.

CANBERRA CROATIA: Giannasca, Marcina, Hoogendoorn, Dunn, Young, Kulcsar (Florese), Sermani, Junna, Perinovic, Reis, Mazia (Lemezina).

Ilinden make semi-finals!

ROCKDALE Ilinden registered its third win in as many matches when it brushed past Canterbury Marrickville Olympic to win 3-0 last Friday night at Seymour Shaw Park.

After some early resistance from Canterbury, the Group A leaders took over midway through the first half and never looked back.

The 3-0 scoreline flattered Canterbury as Ilinden completely dominated the second period and could have scored a few more goals had their shots been on target.

Jimmy Milosourgis was the only Canterbury player to come close to scoring. He won the ball in the air, but his header, after only 17 minutes of the first half, sailed over the bar.

Seven minutes later, Louis Dounis, the ex-Canterbury player, showed scant respect for his old side as he latched onto a Zoran Naumovski pass to steer it past the keeper.

Greg Lerond almost made it 2-0 a few minutes later but his point-blank volley was superbly saved by Mihas.

Dounis repeated in the 55th minute when he ran past the bewildered Canterbury defence to poke his shot past the goalie. To make matters worse for the locals, only Keith Warren and Dounis were involved in the move. It was a long clearance by Warren that led to Dounis's rush and goal.

Five minutes later Dounis rounded the full-back before providing a perfect pass for Zlatko Markovski to make it 3-0 from close range.

Ilinden's continued dominance of the qualifying rounds, and particulary this match, must be attributed to some hard, early-season preparation carried out by Dennis Hogart after the club brought in six new players in the off-season.

ROCKDALE ILINDEN: Warren (Andrew), Segreto, McAusland, O'Donnell, Buchanan (Martin), Naumovski, Watson, Markovski (Mickovski), Lerond, Dounis, Porter.

CANTERBURY: *Mihas, Papothis, Spanoudakis, Plataniotis,* Radman, Godzik, Marinos, Katovic, Kalogeras, Oustambasidis, Melisourgis (Pavlovic).

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION LTD

Pre-Season Challenge Cup

This Week's Matches

ROUND 4

GROUP A

FRIDAY 24.2.89

SEYMOUR SHAW PARK

Rockdale Ilinden v Sutherland Shire 7.30pm

SATURDAY 25.2.89

J.J. KELLY PARK

Canterbury M'ville v Canberra Croatia 4pm

Inter Monaro v Wollongong Mace 6pm

GROUP B

SATURDAY 24.2.89

AUSTRAL PARK

Newcastle Austral v Polonia 4pm

SUNDAY 25.2.89

MELITA STADIUM

Avala v Warringah F'water 4pm

Penrith Uruguay v Melita Eagles 6pm

See a top State League match this week!

Top transfers of 1989

BY GREG BLAKE

WARREN Spink is the best value transfer of the year.

The free-scoring Spink's move from Melbourne JUST to Preston can be rated as the deal most likely to succeed after examining all the recent deals, although New Zealand's Mike McGarry might yet be the surprise packet.

Makedonia, which spent close to $70,000 in the off-season, features heavily in the top 10, with Spink being joined by Andrew Zinni and John Markovski on the list.

Youngsters like Kurt Reynolds and Andrew Bernal also get a look-in, as does veteran John Kosmina.

Others to figure in the race only to just miss a place were the likes of David Ratcliffe, Steve O'Connor, Kevin Hagan, Zlatko Arambasic, Kiwi Billy Wright, Paul Lewis, Ossie Latif and Alistair Edwards.

And whilst Mike Petersen, Con Opasinis, John Stewart, Ronnie Campbell and Garry McDowall have all recently changed clubs, none have made enough impact on their new clubs as yet to earn a place in the order of merit.

Here is our list of the 10 most successful off-season deals:

No. 1 — Warren Spink (Melbourne JUST to Preston Makedonia).

Spink has started 1989 the way he ended 1988 — scoring goals with professional ease.

His NSL club record-breaking 13 goals for JUST last season signalled his arrival as a genuine class performer as he battled against the odds in a struggling team.

With such an impressive array of talent now around him at Preston, it's hard to find any reason to suggest he'll not have a sparkling season.

No. 2 — Andrew Bernal (Ipswich Town to Sydney Olympic).

If potential is any gage to future success, Sydney Olympic has won itself one heck of a player in Bernal.

Young, strong and exceptionally talented, Bernal has already a wealth of experience to draw on after stints with Sporting Gijon and Ipswich Town, and the former AIS youngster will put that to good use in the NSL.

This fine central defender will keep on improving and has Socceroo stamped all over him.

No. 3 — Andrew Zinni (Brunswick Juventus to Preston).

We rate Zinni third because he certainly is a player of exceptional talent and he seems to be enjoying a new lease of life at Preston.

After a traumatic 1988, the suprise 1987 NSL Rothmans medallist relishes the atmosphere at Makedonia and remains one of the quickest players in the country.

No. 4 — John Markovski (Sunshine George Cross to Preston).

Markovski comes in at Number 4 simply because he's yet to show his best form for his new team.

When he does, watch out.

Markovski is still a youngster but it seems he's been around for years such is his reputation.

What hasn't been written or said about him is hardly worth repeating.

But this brilliant, pacy, strong-running and lethal shooter is going to grace the NSL for many years and when his time eventually does come to hang up his boots there is no doubt he will be remembered as a true champion.

No. 5 — Pedro Ricoy (St George to Apia Leichhardt).

JOHN MARKOVSKI

Ricoy was a sensational if enigmatic and inconsistent performer in his St George days, but he remains a potential match-winner when the mood strikes him.

An aggressive and energetic midfielder, he can swing a game with his searching runs and pin-point crosses, and his ability to run a midfield with strength and detrmination will make him a focal point in the Apia team.

No. 6 — equal Joe Palatsides (Brunswick Juventus to Melbourne JUST) and Ivan Kelic (St Albans to Melbourne Croatia).

At this stage of the season there is little to chose between Kelic and Palatsides, except that Kelic is scoring goals and Palatsides is yet to find touch.

Palatsides would have been the choice had Kelic not burst onto the NSL stage in such dramatic fashion and now it's a line ball.

Kelic is in form but he has plenty to prove before he can be classed as a consistent NSL goalscorer.

'Pala' is only starting to mature as a player and will prove himself beyond doubt if he comes up after a slow start to the new season.

No. 7 — Jean-Paul de Marigny (Apia to Marconi).

What a fine buy de Marigny will be, and is already, to a Marconi team attempting to repeat as NSL champion.

A tough, uncompromising and disciplined defender, he was an integral part of Apia's championship team of 1987 and his experience in that campaign will be invaluable to Marconi this year.

No. 8 — Mehmet Durakovic (Brunswick Juventus to Melbourne JUST).

A championship winner with Juventus in 1985, Durakovic is one of the most under-rated defenders in the National League, yet he seldoms turns in a poor game.

If JUST can match his determination to succeed, it will lift its game considerably. Durakovic will provide the tenacity and drive his new team has often lacked in the past.

No. 9 — Kurt Reynolds (Apia to Blacktown).

This Tasmanian out of Apia Leichhardt is small in stature but what he lacks in that area he more than makes up for in so many other ways.

The former Young Socceroo has as much potential as any player in the top 10 list.

No. 10 — John Kosmina (Sydney Olympic to Apia Leichhardt).

The list wouldn't be complete without the veteran former Socceroo who has been as big as anyone in Australian Soccer in the past decade.

As he has always done over the years, Kosmina will continue to confound the critics by leading his new club out of the mire.

His early season form certainly points to this happening.

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Kurt Reynolds (left) in action for his former club, Apia Leichhardt. He is expected to blossom further at Blacktown City this season.

SOUTH AMERICA

BY MARIO ETCHART

The return leg of the Copa Mexico between Universidad Guadalajara and Toluca was abandoned in the 10th minute of extra-time after seven players had been sent off by the referee. According to FIFA rules, the referee had no option but to call the game off after five Universidad and two Toluca men received their marching orders.

★★★

Here is a summary of the Libertadores Cup matches played over the last week.

In Montevideo, Uruguayan champion Danubio defeated countrymen Penarol in a convincing manner in the first game for both teams in Group 5.

The young Danubio players, under the guidance of brilliant midfielder Ruben Pereira, counter-attacked effectively to win 4-1 against the five-time champions of South America.

Striking sensation Ruben Da Silva opened the scoring after only five minutes while Pereira added the other three in the 10th, 53rd and 83rd minutes.

Uruguayan international Carlos Aguilera scored for the losers.

The match was played at the Centenario Stadium in front of a crowd of 40,000.

In the other Group 5 tie, Bolivar and The Strongest, both from Bolivia, drew 0-0.

The game disappointed the 45,000 fans at La Paz' Hernan Siles Stadium.

Boca Juniors and Super Cup champions, Racing, of Argentina, drew 0-0 in Group 4.

The other teams in that group are the Peruvian representatives Sporting Cristal and Universitario.

The Argentine derby was played at River Plate Stadium before some 40,000 spectators.

Boca were slightly superior but never looked likely winners without its star player, Ruben Paz, the Uruguayan and South American Player of the Year.

Sporting Cristal leads the group with two points after its 1-0 win over Universitario last week.

Tournament

In Mar del Plata, Argentina, Toyota Cup winner Nacional of Uruguay, beat Independiente of Argentina 2-1 in a three-team international tournament.

Argentine midfielder Sergio Merlini opened the scoring after 22 minutes.

Nacional's William Castro equalised 12 minutes later and added a second, winning goal in the 79th minute for the Uruguayans.

Nacional and River Plate, of Argentina, were due to meet in the final today.

WORLD CUP UPDATE

EUROPEAN GROUP 7 QUALIFYING MATCH: Portugal 1 (Paneira 53rd min) Belgium 1 (van der Linden 83rd min) at Lisbon's Luz Stadium. Crowd: 65,000. Standings: Belgium 4 pts, Czechoslovakia 3, Portugal 3, Switzerland 2, Luxembourg 0.

Ruben Paz

Kelic in whirlwind debut

BY GREG BLAKE

"THIS guy will be a sensation," were the rather prophetic words of one National League defender earlier in the season after he had spent an afternoon chasing Melbourne Croatia's new goalscoring hero, Ivan Kelic.

Six NSL rounds down the track and the little-known Croatia striker is the competition's leading scorer and the only player so far this year to have bagged a hat-trick.

For the rangy, new NSL star it seems the transition from Victoria's State League into NSL ranks has been a relatively easy one.

Which, in turn, means he might just be a little special.

The last Victorian striker to hit the scene with such impact was wee Charlie Eagan, whose 20 goals for State League Frankston City in 1981 were followed by a further 20 goals in his first NSL season the very next year when he joined South Melbourne.

Kelic isn't in Eagan's class, at least not yet.

But he knows he can do well and at the moment he's doing just that rather well.

"I've always been a goalscorer and I've had a nose for goals all my life," he explains.

"At this stage I'm not expecting to win the NSL scoring title, but I'd like to play the full season and score 10 or 11 goals."

Kelic, after his whirlwind start, is almost certain to be just about the first picked each week so he should have little trouble playing out an entire season.

But the 20-year-old is concerned that the goals might start to dry up as the season progresses.

"Certainly, defenders will start to take more notice of me and try to mark me out of the game," he believes.

But if determination to succeed at NSL level is the springboard to stardom, Kelic is well on his way to becoming a feature member of the title-challenging Melbourne Croatia side.

Perhaps conscious of the fate of the many State League 'stars' who have failed to fire after making the move to the NSL, Kelic has worked hard to avoid the same fate befalling him.

"At the start it was hard because my fitness level was not high and I found the marking in the NSL much tighter," he said.

"Now I'm training four nights a week and playing on the fifth and I have had to put more commitment into my game.

"The standard of play is much higheer and there is no time given to you when you are on the ball."

One man who might learn from Kelic's dedication is new Melbourne Croatia signing Ivan Duzel.

Duzel, a team-mate of Kelic's last season at St Albans, and the 1988 Rothmans Medal runner-up, now faces the same challenge of stepping up to NSL standard.

Ivan Kelic (left) in his St Albans days. In his debut NSL season, the new Melbourne Croatia forward has struck fear in opposing defences and tops the scorers' list.

Kelic and Duzel combined in fine style for St Albans last year and if Duzel can make the transition with the same ease as his goalscoring team-mate, Melbourne Croatia will reap the benefits.

Sunshine still contending

PRE-SEASON you would have thought a title challenge by Sunshine George in 1989 would be about as likely as Queensland political heavyweight Russ Hinze winning an Olympic gold medal in the 100m sprint in Barcelona in 1992.

Big Russ might be well advised to start his running now — he'll probably prove me wrong as well.

After all, who would have tipped George Cross, minus teenage sensation John Markovski, would have started 1989 so well and be one of Melbourne's leading clubs after five rounds?

This time last season George Cross had six goals thumped past them by eventual champions Marconi and things looked grim, at least for a time.

But in 1989 a Round 3 meeting with Marconi was another story as Sunshine took the honours in a convincing 3-1 win at Chaplin Reserve.

The club's spirited run might come to an end and then again, according to midfield veteran Jeff Faulkner, it might not.

"Things are on an up at the moment but I'd have to say yes, we can keep going," he told me.

"The only thing that might stop us would be to lose players through silly bookings and injuries as happened last year.

"We still don't have the depth of squad we'd like and that's where the Sydney-based teams out-do us every season.

"In our final game last year we needed to win to make the final five but we had several players out through suspension. You only need a couple of key men out and you're gone."

Faulkner doesn't like his team-mates being referred to as cast-offs, misfits or youngsters.

And, yet, a careful scan through the George Cross squad will reveal that many of the players are just that.

Which really is only a glowing testimony to John Gardiner, and his coaching staff and to the character of the players themselves.

It is also a slap in the face to some clubs whose judgement on which players to unload leaves much to be desired.

A case in point is recent signing Paul Lewis from Melbourne Croatia who, despite being Melbourne's leading NSL goalscorer for three successive years, was unwanted by that club.

"I think we've done very well in that exchange (Lewis for Markovski)," says Faulkner.

"His presence has lifted everybody and we seem to be a different team with two recognised scorers in Lewis and Ossie Latif.

"We are starting to believe in our ability to win games."

Lewis and Latif are the only new signings in a George Cross team which missed the final five by a whisker last season.

Two other newcomers to the first team are Aki Kotzamichalis and Gary Hasler.

Kotzamichalis, who languished in the youth team after coming up from the State League, and Hasler, a youth team star in recent seasons, have both claimed regular first team berths in 1989.

"Aki has surprised everyone by shedding weight. He is now reaping the rewards of intense pre-season training and is a metre or so faster to the ball," claims Faulkner.

"Gary has come on beautifully and is performing well."

As for Faulkner himself, the 35-year-old is just grateful he didn't follow his heart and retire early last year as he had planned.

— GREG BLAKE

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McDOWALL'S TRANSFER

Injured Socceroo GARRY McDOWALL has signed for Heidelberg on a unique "pay for play" basis.

McDowall, who is still two to three weeks away from playing, moved from Juventus last week to help bolster the Bergers' ailing stocks after a dismal start to the season.

The unusual contract was agreed to because Heidelberg still believes the big Socceroo defender is under an injury cloud.

* * *

The extraordinary talents of former Melbourne Croatia and Preston Makedonia star STEVE GOJEVIC continue to lie dormant as the season rolls on.

Gojevic, transfer-listed during Preston's purge of late last year, has had his transfer fee dropped from $35,000 to $26,000 but has attracted little interest since Sydney Croatia dropped out of the running.

BOOST FOR BERGERS

HEIDELBERG have also signed George Kalogeros from South Melbourne and John Stewart from Preston on top of Apia's Peter Tredinnick and former Preston skipper Ron Campbell. It seems as though president Lou Yoannidis is sticking by his pledge to sign eleven players if need be to keep the club in the NSL...

MELBOURNE CITY JUST officials want it to be known that this is not the name of the club. At least it is the official company name, registered as such some four years ago, but it is not the name registered with the NSL and the club insists the press refer to the club as MELBOURNE JUST.

* * *

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Refs can make game more entertaining

BY MIKE JOHNSON

WITH violence and general aggression increasing in modern sport, the role of the referee, or umpire, grows increasingly difficult.

We witnessed the enormous harassment of Australian cricket umpires by senior players in the recent series against the West Indies.

Cricket umpires seldom face the level of crowd abuse that comes the way of Soccer referees.

However, probably the greatest pressure these officials face is from their own peers, namely the ones delegated to assess them in games.

Doug Rennie, a former National League referee, is senior vice-president of the Australian Referees' Association and also a referee's inspector.

Terry Seacy is another former hard-line NSL ref who nowadays is the president of the NSW Referees.

I sat with these two "heavies" out at Bossley Park for the Marconi-Heidelberg night game.

They came not to watch the game, but to watch referee Arthur Owens.

Arthur, of medium height, lean and fit, has been under pressure and in danger of being relegated back to the second rank of NSL referees.

Currently, in the elite Number One referees' NSL group, Arthur knew that he would be contending not just with players, coaches and spectators that evening, but also with two of 'his own' who would scrutinise his every movement and decision.

Arthur was fortunate

DOUG RENNIE

that his match assignment was Marconi v Heidelberg.

Marconi, minus transferred Craig Mason and Tony Henderson, with Ian Gray out injured, were high on skill and low on toughness.

Heidelberg, with many small Continental players, were full of running and deft short-passing, but low on hard-nosed competitiveness.

Easy

It was a relatively easy game to referee for such an experienced ref as Owens, whose fitness had him in close contact with all of the situations which required his judgement.

One or two times, players got somewhat 'strappy', but Owens quickly and firmly brought them in line, without recourse to the yellow red truncheons which many of our referees use to bludgeon our erring players into submissiveness.

So, happy with Owens' performance, Terry Seacy turned his attention to a rather heavily-built linesman who was not keeping up with the play.

"Look, there he goes again, he's miles behind, you'll have to talk to him at half-time Doug".

Arthur Owens' sharp half-time whistle sounded soon after and the two Soccer sentinels marched, downstairs to congratulate Arthur and get stuck into the unfortunate linesman.

In the second half, nothing had changed.

Arthur was still totally in control, without a single blemish in a highly competent performance, while the overweight linesman still was having trouble keeping in touch with the last line in defence, the position from which his assistance was needed.

"There he goes again . . . what did we say to him Doug. He didn't bloody listen!"

Terry Seacy looked as though he might jump down from the grandstand and thump the hapless linesman, or at least grab him and pull him in line with the play.

It was this linesman who caused referee Owens to make his only mistake of the night.

Marconi's New Zealand striker, Fred de Jong, tends to grip and pull people as he contests for the ball and he did this to a Heidelberg defender who retaliated rather mildly right under the overweight linesman's nose, who flapped his flag frantically up and down for a free-kick to de Jong.

Arthur Owens, from 20 metres away, concurred and the resulting free-kick to Marconi was his first and only mistake of the night.

Deliberate

Referees, especially those who have never played much, generally have problems trying to discern who has fouled who, or what is a deliberate foul and what is not.

Professional players would be able to tell you correctly 29 times out of 30 who fouls who, whether it was a malicious foul, or whether it was an accidental foul.

Referees often get this wrong.

The simple trick of a striker backing into a defender fools referees time after time, with the irate defender punished for pushing when he shouldn't be.

Just as a coach nowadays will bring referees to lecture to his players on the rules of the game and other matters, referees should look to professional players for advice on discerning foul play.

The professional player most of all wants the referee to protect him from brute and illegal force.

The modern referee can inflame aggression among spectators and players by being unable to discern and control thuggery on the playing field.

He must also know when to ignore minor transgressions for the sake of continuity of play.

The referee more than an Ollerenshaw, a Trimboli, a Crino or a Davidson has the ability to influence the entertainment value of a Soccer game by keeping it moving.

He is the most important influence for the enjoyment of Soccer for the hundreds of thousands in Australia and the millions throughout the world who watch the game.

This massive police presence was not sufficient to prevent the infamous "Battle of Pratten Park" which struck a savage blow to Soccer's image.

Let's stamp out crowd violence

BY JOE DI MEGLIO

A Soccer fan encounters the strong arms of the law during the Pratten Park riot of some years ago.

SYDNEY Croatia and Sydney Olympic, Australia's best supported Soccer clubs, could be in trouble unless they control the unruly behaviour of some of their fans before the NSL becomes involved.

It hasn't just been this season: the problem has been there for the last two years, and it's becoming worse as the season progresses.

The most recent ugly incident occurred at the Sydney Croatia-Wollongong City match at Brandon Park where 15 happy Wolves supporters were chanting around the ground 'We are the champions'.

Their team had defeated the leading contenders for the championship and they were ecstatic.

But a few sore losers amongst the large contingent of Croatia fans provoked them at the top of the hill on the southern end of the ground.

The fight ended up about 50 metres from where it originally started from, and even though police came to break it up, the brawl continued unabated with fists flailing and abuse directed at the constabulary.

Also on the same day, at the St George Stadium, some so-called Sydney Olympic "supporters" were having a ball baiting Saints fans as their club was losing 2-0.

An ugly fight broke out when two St George supporters went on top of the camera scaffold on the northern end of the ground right above where the Olympic fans were massed, and started to chant encouragements to their team.

Some Olympic fans took offence and climbed up to remove them with kicks and punches.

What is it with some people that they cannot accept to lose gracefully and have to vent their disappointment by turning against fans of the opposing team?

Is it any wonder crowds are down? Are we going to reach the stage where people are too scared to attend games in person, preferring to watch Soccer only on television?.

I feel sorry for those who are trying to lift Australian Soccer out of its Third World status by bringing crowds back to watch the game.

There is so much competition from other codes in this country, that when you have these young hooligans who go to matches just to belt up people it makes one wonder whether we'll ever make it.

I'd like to see some of those so-called supporters watched carefully by club officals as they are the ones who must take the first step in controlling the crowds before the situation gets out of hand.

We certainly don't want a repetition of the infamous Pratten Park riot of a few years ago, the worst in NSL history.

A word of advice: if you want to fight, stay clear of Soccer matches.

Did you know?

— That the biggest crowd at an Australian club match was in 1963 when South Coast United defeated Apia 4-0?

The Sydney grand final was played at the old Sports Ground.

30,156 spectators watched the match.

Semi-professional advantage

Australia outdoes English semi-pros

CANBERRA COACHING IDENTITY STEVE DARBY COMPARES AUSTRALIAN AND ENGLISH SEMI-PROFESSIONAL CLUBS

A comparison between top level English football and Australian Soccer is perhaps unfair due to the highly professional nature of the game overseas.

Also time spent watching Liverpool, Everton and Tranmere training in January is not well spent because of the weather and the constant match commitments.

Steve Darby

Training consists mainly of highly competitive 8-a-side games and fitness work.

A comparison with semi-professional football is more relevant in that those types of clubs are i) the feeder clubs to the professional football league ii) train 2/3 times per week at night iii) get paid approximately $50-$100 per game (the game is poorer in the north of England due to the economic climate).

Australian Soccer compares favourably in a number of areas with the semi-professional clubs visited in the Merseyside area.

The training facilities and equipment are far superior here.

Possibly because of weather conditions, certainly none of the clubs visited had complexes such as Marconi or even Canberra Croatia and Tasmania's Devonport.

One club only trains on its pitch, and due to wet weather, had to train on the grass verge between two highways!

I cannot imagine Sydney Olympic or Blacktown City doing this.

The infrastructure of the semi-professional club is far stronger here.

In England the clubs are separate entities with no emphasis on junior players or development programmes.

The structure of Sydney Croatia and St George, with their massive junior programmes, and Belconnen in the ACT, with its junior club set-up, would be a great asset to financially hamstrung semi-professional clubs in England who rely heavily on supporters' clubs.

The Australian semi-professional game has certainly benefited from the mixture of Australian, Italian, Slav, Greek, British and South American styles.

The English game is very stereotyped in either 4-4-2 or 4-3-3, with defences dominated by strong tall men and midfielders constantly bypassed with long balls.

It is a brave man who puts his foot on the ball in midfield.

Australian Soccer has its faults, but often the criticism is from people clouded in nostalgia about the game "back home".

Many of the Australian club structures would be the envy of semi-professional clubs in England.

We can still learn about the passion, discipline and dedication of English football, as the term motivation is redundant in the game.

And we can still try to stop our excessive drop-out rate in Soccer.

We must encourage players to continue playing at all levels for clubs, not only for health reasons but to generate and keep interest in the game alive.

In Australia we must keep pumping money into training facilities and capital equipment.

It is an investment which will further the interests of talented, skilful players.

The spreadeagled form of France's Laurent Blanc did little to divert Arsenal's Brian Marwood from following the ball as the Gunners beat France 2-0.

NEXT WEEK:

The FA coaching schemes.

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Chit Chat . . . Chit Chat . . . Chit Chat . . .

After a considerable amount of rain prior to the final round of the recently held U16 World Cup qualifiers at Valentine Park, Parklea, two leading NSW officials were keen to see both games played in the best possible conditions.

In order to achieve this it was necessary to mow a second field which had to be cut by hand due to the wetness of the surface.

The two people handling the lawnmowers? None other than the NSW Soccer Federation general manager Ian Holmes and his hard working assistant Kim Maree Field.

The Joeys showed their appreciation by playing their best football of the tournament in defeating New Zealand 5-1 to earn themselves a position in the finals to be held in Scotland.

There is no truth to the rumour that Ian and Kim are considering a career change.

★★★

What a difference a win makes!

Adelaide City's cupboard looked bare and hopes dim as it dived to an opening four defeats.

But a victory over George Cross and the sun started to shine again.

Morale lifted and there was the encouraging sign of midfielder Adrian Santrac nearing match fitness after knee surgery and the return from Europe of promising younsters Carlo Taliadira and Tony Vidmar, brother of Socceroo Aurelio.

City also is waiting for the go ahead from the Australian Embassy in Belgrade to bring out Red Star defender, Milan Ivanovich.

MARK JONES, Sydney Croatia's strong defensive midfielder or central defender, has secured his diploma in physical education from the Hunter Institute of Higher Education in Newcastle.

He intends to convert it now into a degree.

Football training in Sydney is catered for by sharing a car with Graham Jennings.

No longer on deck for the trip down is Sean Ingham, who has settled in Sydney.

★★★

MENTION of Brisbane's JASON KEARTON as Everton's current A team goalkeeper has brought a young Sydney player to mind. MARK BOSNICH, a product of Sydney Croatia's junior club, is also doing extremely well.

He has been appearing in the reserve team of English First Division giants Manchester United.

★★★

The numbers of coaches to attend the State Instruction Course at the Australian Institute of Sport from March 12/17 has been fixed.

The state contingents are NSW 7, Northern NSW 2, Queensland 5, Victoria 3, South Australia and Western Australia 2 each, and ACT and Tasmania one apiece.

AUSTRALIAN Soccer authorities are believed to be anxious to ensure that overseas Soccer does not go to air on television at the times when people are preparing to go to or are attending National League or State League.

This could mean leaving the TV box free of Soccer match features from noon to 5pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

★★★

ONE former Apia Leichhardt favourite, ANTHONY PARISON, seems to have slipped away to join St George.

The auburn-haired striker has exceptional skills and has the capacity to find a regular spot in NSL company.

★★★

If you are eager to help Soccer in Sydney's Southern suburbs, then Second Division SUTHERLAND SHARKS would like to hear from you.

Phone Charlie Johns on (02) 525-2197.

The club needs financial community assistance to stay afloat.

★★★

JERRY MURPHY, a former Republic of Ireland international midfielder who played for Chelsea and Crystal Palace, is likely to join Blacktown City soon. The Demons, however, will only be able to field him — as a visa player — when Lawrie McKinna's naturalisation comes through at the end of the month.

★★★

SYDNEY OLYMPIC's depth is readily apparent from a check of their 'Youth' team. Recent names in the side have been Clint Gosling, Gary Phillips, Tom Pontidas and David Barrett.

★★★

FRANK AROK has been appointed to the board of directors of the St George club following its privatisation takeover.

Tony Balazsi, the managing director of the new company, said that Arok was a vital cog in the club's big plans as he was in a unique position to implement them.

Arok said he was looking forward to the challenge despite the added workload.

★★★

St George's exciting young striker, MATTHEW BINGLEY, is still a schoolboy at Parramatta High.

The 17-year-old learned his football with Granville and Melita juniors before joining Saints' under 16s.

He represented Australia at the 1987 under 16 World Youth Cup in Canada and his dream is to play some day for the Socceroos.

He's well on the road to full national team status if his current development continues.

★★★

Adelaide City has been given a boost by the return of attacking fullback, Paul Shillabeer.

★★★

THERE's no place like home! Or so GRAHAM JENNINGS, the Socceroo and Sydney Croatia defender believes. Graham and his family have moved back to their old home town of Newcastle. He'll be doing a lot of commuting for matches and training.

★★★

BLACKTOWN football committee chairman Ron Bowman has been holidaying in Europe.

He is also checking out for a couple of players in the UK. Eric Ferguson, a Scottish player who previously toured Australia, is a possibility.

Meanwhile, coach Les Scheinflug reckons he hasn't stood still ever since arriving back from Syria with the Australian youth team.

★★★

MARCONI goalkeeper BOB CATLIN may well not be moving to London to follow up a possible career with Chelsea.

"It is very exciting to have the opportunity to play over there and they want me back," he said.

"However, the pay they offered isn't good enough unless it is increased.

"With my job and my place with Marconi I think I am likely to do better in Australia in the long run."

Aussie Chris Kalantzis jumps for joy and shares his jubilation with the Panathinaikos fans after scoring his team's fourth goal against Larissa. Panathinaikos defeated the 1987/88 league champions 4-1.

KIWI international striker Billy Wright is expected to add much-needed finishing power to Blacktown City's attack.

The Demons snared him as he was headed to Western Australia to join Alan Vest's team (the deal fell through).

Wright is in the New Zealand World Cup train-on squad, but he has declined to play in the All Whites' opener against Israel on March 5.

★★★

GEOFF GUNNING is back in training after his car accident. Also making an impression at Marconi training after breaking a leg is ANTHONY SURJAN.

★★★

Recent Marconi signing JEAN-PAUL de MARIGNY has been giving up his spare night of late to do some extra special "training." Once a week, together with expectant wife Donna, he goes to pre-natal classes in preparation of the birth of his first child.

★★★

DANNY CRAINIE is set to re-sign for Wollongong City. The former Celtic Glasgow player had been transfer-listed at $13,000. Crainie has had a dream start in the NSL this season and is just the player who can inspire the Wolves to another good season.

★★★

SBS-TV's Les Murray reported in his weekly column in Sydney's Sun-Herald that the central defender of Mechelen, winners of last season's European Cup-Winners'Cup, was born in Australia of Dutch parents.

His name is GRAHAM RUTJES and he would love to play for Australia!

Eddie Krncevic, whose Anderlecht is engaged in a two-way tussle with Mechelen for the Belgian title, claims he is one of the best centre-backs in Europe.

★★★

THE VICTORIAN HEALTH PROMOTION FOUNDATION's connection with Soccer was celebrated with a function at Olympic Park, Melbourne, last Thursday on the eve of the Socceroos' game against Malmo.

The Soccceroos will be sponsored in future by the "Quit Smoking" organisation, which couldn't have been too thrilled the next day when less than 3000 spectators watched the international.

ABC IMPROVING

WE are happy to report that the ABC's coverage of the National League has improved out of sight.

The national broadcaster has apparently sorted out the teething problems that marred its first telecasts and has now settled on an enjoyable one-hour format for its 5pm Sunday "Big Match" programme.

The camera work is more than acceptable, the comments are pertinent and the presenters have done their homework with interesting facts and figures.

— KEITH GILMOUR

MANIS LAMOND is still out of the action due to a dislocated shoulder.

The Papua New Guinea-born speedster may not be seen in Sydney Croatia colours for another month.

— Pix by GODWIN D'AMATO

REGIONAL NEWS

ASW is always keen to publish some stories and pictures from main regional centres throughout Australia.

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GREG RUSSELL REPORTS

Familiar ring at Pine Rivers

POLAK and KOCH are set to be two names featured prominently when Pine Rivers make their debut in the XXXX League this season.

But Sydney Olympic fans need not fear any secret transfers. It won't be Jason and John but their younger brothers Gavin and Clayton.

The pair are in a young but very talented Pine Rivers squad put together by former Brisbane City NSL midfielder Bobby Hamilton.

Clayton Koch is a regular in the Rivers team while the younger Polak is beginning to knock on the door of selection after impressing in the lower grades last season.

BOBBY HAMILTON, now coaching Queensland XXXX League promoted hopefuls Pine Rivers, seen n action when he starred in the Brisbane City line-up in the National Soccer League. He faces a daunting task to bring his young side through.

JOHN KOCH

Pine Rivers last season won an intense battle with Acacia Ridge for the lone promotion spot from Division II to XXXX League which Hamilton believes has conditioned his squad for its first campaign in the top grade.

"The younger boys in the team learned a lot last season and I am sure they won't be over-awed in the higher division," Hamilton said.

"Obviously we are looking to consolidate our position, but I feel we have a squad which will cause more than its share of upsets."

Pine Rivers, one of the Northside's largest junior Soccer bases, has been slowing climbing the divisions in recent years and their final ascent to XXXX League surprised few.

Jason Polak

And unlike Wynnum and Croatia, who in recent years have dropped straight back into Division Two after one season in the XXXX League, most expect Rivers' stay to be an extended one.

Hamilton's side, in fact, led grand final winners North Star 2-0 in an Ampol Cup first round tie last season, but inexperience in the dying stages saw them fritter away the lead and they were eventually downed 4-2.

Not surprisingly, after the success of last season, the majority of Rivers players have returned, including outstanding defender Andrew Stillman, the under-rated John Cartwright, former state youth representative Steven Kluss and everyone's favorite postman, Brian Hewitt.

Also trialling with Rivers are Valley Trident's pacey Peter Carey, who had a stint in the NSL with Brisbane City, and his 1988 team-mates Enzo Cupo and Paul Antonelli.

Rochedale girds up for season

ROCHEDALE have been the quiet movers on the Queensland Soccer transfer market.

While others grabbed the headlines, the new-look Rovers committee moved silently and impressively to snap up three exciting attackers, and the club has two more signings almost completed.

Secured to wear Rochedale colours in the XXXX League this season are former Lions, Olympic and Mount Gravatt striker Tom McGregor, former Mount Gravatt, Rochedale and Ipswich United flanker Brian MacNicol and explosive Ipswich United midfielder Stephen Bradford.

The other signings close to completion include a well-respected midfielder, who played with a topline club last season, and an experienced goalkeeper.

Rochedale also have moved to secure two of their most talented home-grown products. Striker Michael Clarkson, a finalist in the QSPA Rookie of the year award last season, and fullback Stu Greer have signed two-year professional terms with the Underwood Park club.

With new coach Alan Jones at the Heln, Rochedale believe they are ready to push for semi-final honours this season.

"We have been one of the biggest junior clubs in Queensland, now it is time we had a senior side to match," said club official Brian Lebihan. "For too long we have been called the sleeping giant. The giant is up and running this season."

While challenging for the premiership is possibly still a season or two away for Rochedale, the club could be a realistic darkhorse for the fifth semi-final spot which appears wide open.

Most pundits agree Lions, Brisbane City, North Star and Easts are assured of playing beyond the final round and it would only take a little bit of luck for Rochedale of join them.

In addition to their new signings, the club has retained last year's team cornerstones, Jim Kelly, Craig Low, Steve Donald, Nev Gooding and Paul and Ian Grocott.

Irishman Sean Armstrong also could be returning for another Underwood Park stint.

Also back after a season on the sidelines are experienced campaigners John Fox and John McNairn.

"There's a new spirit at Rochedale this season," Lebihan said. "Everyone is working hard for the club and this season we're going to make a few other sides sit up and take notice."

Brisbane merger big boost for code

Wilston United is the name of Queensland Soccer's newest club.

The name was settled upon in final negotiations in the merger of Division Two clubs Bardon and Valley Trident.

Several other names had been suggested, including Arc Cosmos, Cosmopolith United and even Brisbane United — but Wilston, the suburb's of the club's home ground, was finally accepted as a compromise which would also be accepted by the Queensland Soccer Federation.

The new club will be based at Valley Trident's Murray Street Ground (Benica Oval). The club's juniors will still play at Bardon's Bowman Park.

The club's colours are yet to be approved by the QSF management committee, but are expected to be a design featuring Bardon's red and Valley Trident's black and white.

But in the opening games of the season, the club's teams are likely to wear Valley Trident's Juventus stripes at home and Bardon's strip away.

The first team coach will be Bardon's Garry Bromfield, a former Queensland and Brisbane City NSL player.

Club officials have been busily finalising the merger and now will turn their attention to the on-field aspects, including finalising coaching and playing staff.

The decision for Bardon and Valley Trident to merge, which came after earlier talks between Valley Trident and Lutwyche, has oddly enough proved a boost for Slacks Creek, based on the other side of town.

Creek finished second last in Division Three last season and were destined to be relegated to Division Four.

But with Valley Trident no longer coming down from Division Two, Slacks Creek have escaped the drop.

The erasure of Valley Trident from the QSF is among three well-known names to go this season.

RAAF, who have been longtime and eager lower division competitors, have withdrawn their affiliation.

Westside, the former Budapest-Grovely, also have withdrawn from the QSF after player numbers dwindled.

"It is regrettable to see any club withdraw from the Federation, but the door is always open for any club to seek reaffiliation," said QSF secretary Jim Gilbert.

DID YOU KNOW?

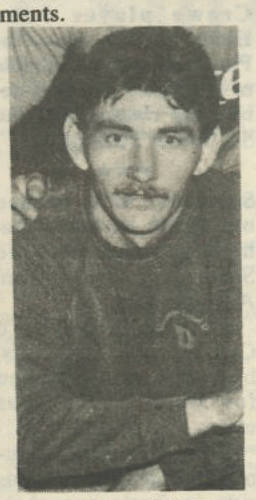
That Les Scheinflug scored Australia's first-ever World Cup goal?

He netted the Aussies' only goal in the 6-1 defeat by North Korea in Pnom-Penh, Cambodia, in November 1965.

Niven switch

MOUNT Gravatt have finalised the purchase of Brisbane Lions and Queensland fullback Alan Niven.

The club last week came to terms to pay ex-Socceroo Niven's $5000-transfer in two instalments.



Alan Niven.

"I'm glad it's all over now. I just want to get on playing for Mount Gravatt," said Niven, who walked out of Lions a fortnight ago after negotiations for a new contract reached a stalemate.

Niven was one of a number of experienced players secured by Mount Gravatt for their opening XXXX pre-season match against Coalstars at Perry Park last week.

The club also signed Acacia Ridge's Irish striker Roy Smyth. The deal saw Hawks midfielder Cameron Bell switch to proud field.

Also in the Roger Hoy-coached Mount Gravatt line-up for the first match was experienced fullback-midfielder George Caird, a former City NSL player who played most recently with Brisbane Croatia and utility player Peter Tyson, who has had previous stints with West Adelaide, Across the Waves and Valley Trident.

The State Story

Alan Clark reviews the Soccer scene in . . .

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

GEORGE KONSTANDOPOULOS

Hellas shocked SA by putting star striker George Konstandopoulos on the transfer list. Konstandopoulos, who has wide NSL experience, returned to the club early this year after a stay in Greece but has been told he does not fit into club plans.
Croatia, Azzurri and Campbelltown have enquired after his services.

THE SA Amateur Soccer League has had to reshuffle teams this year with Omonia's decision to join the Federation.

Promoted teams for this year now are — Division 1: Rostrevor, Para Hills, Tea Tree Gully; Div 2: West Beach, Noarlunga Utd, The Cove; Div 3: WS Calabria,Ingle Farm, Broadmeadows; Div 4: Adelaide Eagles, Adelaide Villa, Munno Para; Div 5: Blackwood, North East United, Salisbury Utd; Div 6: Eastern Park, Salsibury Villa, Elizabeth ield; Div 7: Adelaide Celtic, Gawler, Prince Alfred College, Croatia.

The season starts on March 19 with the Cichanowski Shield clash between Salisbury Inter and Noarlunga Utd, followed by the Preliminary Cup round on April 2.

League action gets underway on April 9.

★★★

WA Birkalla and Sturt Marion Soccer Clubs are planning a seven-a-side amateur Soccer spectacular over the weekend of March 18-19 at Stuart Marion's ground.

One of the tournament organisers, Bill Oddy, said it was hoped between 60 and 80 sides would be represented in the tournament, which had the blessing of the SA Amateur Soccer League.

Around 250 games would be played over the weekend on eight pitches.

It would cost $50 to nominate a team of 10 players and each side would play in a league round-robin with the successful heading on for knockout rounds, through to the final.

Only registered amateur league players or players who will register this season with affiliated amateur league clubs would be eligible to play.

Organisers expect to finalise details for the tournament early next week for what promises to be a gala weekend of Soccer.

★★★

Para Hills is awaiting a clearance for former Crewe player John Hinds. He has signed for Para and will be eligible to play once passport details are cleared with the SA Soccer Federation.

★★★

Salisbury Utd forked out $2500 to take Graham Latham back to Steve Jarvis Park from Adelaide City.

Latham moved to City last year from Salisbury but was sidelined for much of the year with a back injury.

He now is back to fitness and keen to help his side in its league challenge.

Ampol Cup preview

Hindmarsh double header

PETER Jaksa's Adelaide Hellas tonight (Wed) will get its most searching test of the season so far in the crucial Ampol Cup clash with Birkalla Eagles at Hindmarsh.

Birkalla, coached by former Hellas supremo Neil McGachey and with several former Hellas players in its line-up, heads Group B by a point.

But if Hellas wins tonight it will gain top spot and an important semi-final place against the runner-up from Group A.

The sides look evenly matched.

Former Australian Player of the Year, Graham Honeyman, marshalls an excellent Eagles defence in front of ex-West Ham keeper Gary Sproul.

New signing Paul Higgins has been an inspiration in midfield along with veteran Terry Hayes and up front Gary Price is one of SA's premier marksmen.

But Hellas oozes class personnel, though the names on paper so far have not shone so brightly on field.

Captain Alby Kidd, Zoran Maricic, Mike Barnett, Lemmy Vatsilas, Martin Doak, Raymond Blair and Colin Miller all are among the biggest names in the game in SA.

Polonia Adelaide's Koza (left) in combat with Croatia Adelaide's Steve Witwicki.

They'll guarantee fans a late game cracker.

Polonia's superb imports, Mariusz Niewiadomski, Eddie Lonka and almost forgotten man Pawel Weiczorek may give their side the edge over Croatia in the equally crucial early game.

Croatia's new young side slowly is being groomed into a hard working, competitive unit by coach Robert Marwe.

The boost of a Cup win over Salisbury and several encouraging trial performances could see Croatia put in a brave challenge for a semi-final spot.

But, in the end, the class of the Polonia imports may be the telling factor.

REFEREES CORNER

Those vexed videos

WRITES TERRY SEACY

I would like to comment on Alex Vesic's article concerning use of video replays (ASW February 15) on the occasion of bad tackles or incidents leading to cautions and send off situations.

FIFA, the governing body of World Soccer, does not want video tapes used in disciplinary cases involving cautions and send off incidents.

The angles involved in TV camera positions must be taken into account and then the position of the referees considered.

In all cases a different view of the incidents is bound to occur.

I do agree that there are incidents which must not go unpunished, even if the referee does not take action.

I would expect the referees inspector to take action against the referee, if in his opinion the referee failed in his duty.

The inspector would deduct marks from the referees' performance, and make comments on the official match report form, which is then forwarded to the appropriate body ie National League office, ASF etc.

In turn, if the NSL or ASF wish to pursue the matter, they can ask for further information from both referee, linesman and match inspector.

I do not believe there are many executioners left in the NSL playing ranks.

But if those players are permitted to carry on, I am sure you will find the referees who allow them to get away with that conduct will find the axe falling on themselves.

I pointed out in last week's 'Referees Corner' that we in NSW demand top performances from our NSL referees, who of course so often appear on TV.

I can assure you every incident similar to the situations described are investigated from our side.

The Australia v Malmo game at Parramatta Stadium tonight (Wednesday February 22) will be controlled by NSW FIFA referee, Richard Lorenc.

His linesman will be Alan Townsend (NSL referee) and Chris Smythe (NSL linesman).

Reserve referee and 4th official will be John McConnell (NSL Referee) and referee inspector will be Keith Lockery (NSW State referees coach).

The NSW Referees Federation will be sponsored by Umbro Australia, great supporters of Soccer through the world.

Despite the searing heat last Saturday and Sunday, the performances of the referees controlling the games which started at 4pm are to be commended.

Having to keep up with play with the temperature in 30° plus is no easy task.

In order to appreciate the difficulty, try running continuously for 40 minutes in that type of heat . . .

DID YOU KNOW?

— That South Australia's first Soccer body was called the SA British Football Association?

Formed at a meeting in the shop of F. Storr, a tailor in Gawler Place, Adelaide, it comprised three clubs — North Adelaide, South Adelaide and Woodville.

ADELAIDE WHISPERS

Ace strikers Mariusz Niewiadomski and Ante Ljubic are battling to be fit for Ampol Cup action tonight (Wed).

Polonia's Niewiadomski, the best striker in SA, is fighting to overcome a back injury and Ljubic, of Croatia, has a chest injury.

★★★

Adelaide Hellas coach Peter Jaksa may have pulled an Ampol Cup master stroke by keeping Scottish import Raymond Blair on the bench in the first half of a clash against Para Hills.

Fired up Blair came on at half-time and demolished Para with a goal and an assist in a powerful display.

★★★

Campbelltown City has signed Irish striker Brian Delany. The 27-year-old formerly played with Morwell Falcons.

★★★

Former SA striker Djuro Arezina has been put on the transfer list by Modbury.

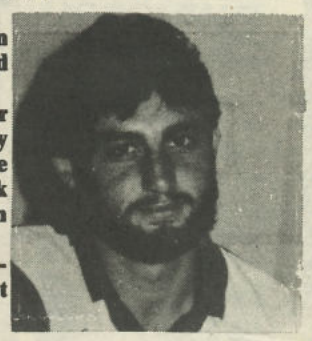
"It is not our policy to hold a player to his contract if he is unhappy," said clubman Terry Thorpe.

Arezina joined Modbury last year from Beograd and helped the club in its bid to survive in the first Division.

Modbury, meanwhile, has signed Elizabeth striker Ian Wood.

He formerly played with Salisbury.

★★★



Former Socceroo John Panagis has joined Azzurri for this season.

The Hellas midfielder will join new faces Andy Papp-Horvath and Steve Hutchins (Lion) and Rick Piotrowski (Polonia) in the Blues line-up.

Azzurri won promotion to Division One last year.

★★★

Hellas captain Alby Kidd showed all his battling qualities in his side's 3-1 Ampol Cup win against Para Hills.

Kidd received a back injury in the first minute, but gamely played out the match to help his side virtually secure a semi-final spot.

Port Adelaide United have made four key sighings to help their bid for First Division glory.

Con Kapnistis, Peter Theodokakakos and Steve Aktipis have joined the Magpies from Hellas while Jim Ninos has arrived from Polonia.

Chairman Len Alagich was happy with the signings and said the club still sought two more players to complete its squad for '89.

"Perhaps we'll get a couple with easier names to fill in the team sheet," said the Port supremo.

★★★

Second Division newcomer Omonia is negotiating for a new 'home' at West Beach.

Club president Georg Leonida said Omonia was having talks with West Beach Trust for the use of ground at the corner of West Beach and Military Roads, opposite the Blueline Drive-in Theatre.

"This year our juniors from under 10 to 16 will practise and play there. Next year we hope to build our own facilities.

"Negotiations are going on to provide proper lighting. There is a main pitch and two other grounds for the club."

Omonia this year will share Woodville West with Beograd.

GASPARETTO STAYS

Explosive Salisbury striker Tony Gasparetto looks sure to stay with the club this season.

Gasparetto was the centre of a rich transfer bid by Croatia but did not endear himself to that club or his own camp with a fiery, petulant display when the two SA rivals met in the Ampol Cup.

Gasparetto was warned about his future behavior by no-nonsense coach Eric Norman and the Berries now hope he does his talking in the best possible way — by scoring goals.

The Northern Suburbs club has been pipped by NSL club Blacktown City for international striker Billy Wright from NZ.

Salisbury had tentative talks with the big Kiwi earlier this season.

Young utility player Glen Cooney will be leaving Steve Jarvis Park.

He has been suspended by the club and put on the transfer list.

ED—TOR

SOMETHING better will have to be devised by the Australian Federation and the National Soccer League to avoid the politically inspired warfare that is once again proving a blight on the game.

The Sydney Macedonians who supported Preston Makedonia against Sydney Olympic on Sunday decided to take over the Olympic area at the St George ground and some added insult to injury by burning the Greek flag.

One possibility is that the teams only be allowed to play if there is a manproof fence between the respective groups of spectators.

It is no use the ASF and the NSL going on national television if the whole country is to be presented with a bun fight in which spectators attending a football match are beaten with stakes and fists.

An enquiry and clear-cut action is called for.

The move by FIFA towards more fair play in Soccer was well conceived and timely.

Not that the international body has necessarily gone far enough yet.

But its import was picked up in Australia by the National Soccer League, amongst others.

By turning up the penalty screws, they have already managed to limit the number of hackers operating in the game.

And next they will be making a move into the area of selecting an Australian Best and Fairest Player.

The state Federations have also made their advances, which is to the betterment of the game.

Association football, played according to its rules, is a manly game, but violence is not permitted.

It has more restraints in its favour than other football codes. Unfortunately not enough is made of its advantages in this respect in some states, and more direct approaches to parents and schools should be undertaken in those cases to get the message across.

Often over the years ASW has pointed out the advantages of Soccer over other such games.

At this stage the whole situation is crystalising.

Over the years many cases of serious injury have been recorded in the rugby codes and Australian rules, *but few if any in Soccer*.

One of Australia's foremost spinal injuries experts is Dr John Yeo of Sydney's Royal North Shore Hospital.

He was quoted as follows in a statement made following a rugby death last year:

"This tragedy shows the maul is still a very dangerous part of the game.

"It demonstrates the fact that rugby union and rugby league administratiors have to keep looking at changes to the game.

"If they ignore it, the game will disappear because people will not be prepared to expose themselves to the risk."

The awarding of $2.18 million against the NSW Education Dept to Stephen Watson after becoming a quadriplegic following a scrum collapse in a rugby league game has caused the Australian rugby union to act.

All players are being required to sign a release against all players and officials of the sport, from legal liability in the event of injuries.

Rugby league experts and players have been quoted as saying their's is a dangerous game, and apparently think the matter will end there.

The law of the land is however going further, and their code will need to closely examine where it stands relative to injuries sustained in the game.

Whilst Soccer is far less involved in major injuries, it may well turn out that the Austrlaian Soccer Federation will need to investigate the position arising out of situations elsewhere in the sporting fraternity.

And FIFA may have to become more closely involved also.

After all, an attacking player can be brought down in full flight just outside the penalty box.

The only basic penalty, apart from a red or yellow card, is a freekick. The offence is regarded so lowly that a line of players can stretch out across the goal in an effort — usually successful — to prevent a goal being scored.

The times, hopefully, will be a-changing.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Preston's back-four of Robert Runje, Bill Piculovski, Steve Jackson and George Jolevski absorbed enormous pressure from Olympic,

Olympic's best battlers were the dimunitive midfielder Tommy Pontidas and Soper, who received insufficient support once he got inside Preston's box. Left back John Koch always looked solid in defence and attack.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier: Hooker, Bernal, Dakos, Koch: McGarry (Lee 68th), Pontidas, Ironside, Polak: Soper, Edwards.

PRESTON: Triainides: Runje, Piculovski, Jackson, Jolevski: Zinni, Tasevski, Markovski: Spink, Smith, Markovac (Slifkas 81st).

Referee: J.McConnell. Crowd: 5,549.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Arok said franchising or private ownership would become a fact of life and the NSL could in time be the country's No.1 football competition.

"The National League can't go on like it is because every club is under-capitalised, even in Sydney. Some clubs will have to merge and in states like Queensland there will be combined sides," he said.

"It has happened in basketball with great success and even in rugby league Queensland has a combined side (the Broncos) who are tipped as favourites to win the competition."

Although Arok's Brisbane United suggestion sparked intense speculation and solid support from the gathering, the concept is not a few one.

A Brisbane United, based on Merton East and St George Souths, was proposed when entries for the inaugural Philips League were being canvassed back in 1975 and 76.

Brisbane City and Lions moved a little quicker and became Queensland's representatives, but their failure to be successful in the league, apart from cup victories in the early years and one finals appearance each, has prompted reapeated calls for a United entry.

The Queensland Soccer Federation has even now reserved the name "Brisbane United" and even as recent as this month rejected a bid by a new combined local club to adopt the name.

QSF president Wal Dann also has not ruled out the likelihood of a United team.

"I believe Queensland should have representation in the highest league possible, but the method by which we do so is something which will have to be examined," he said. "If a Brisbane United is what the clubs want, then we will have to look at ways of making it work."

The only way Brisbane United could be admitted under the current rules would be if a Queensland club side was successful in the promotion play-offs, as Lions were two years ago, and then handed their hard-won place over to the federation.

Even the most optimistic of Brisbane United supporters concede that likelihood is entremely unlikely.

Former QSF president Ian Brusasco, now the ASF chairman, offered the only ray of hope for those who dream of a Brisbane United. Brusasco said a review of the NSL was likely inside the next two years.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Australia's forays forward, though rare, were lethal. In the 42nd minute Vonderberg, under pressure, hit a looping backpass which almost beat his own keeper but went out for the home team's first corner.

Scott Ollerenshaw took the kick which Graham Arnold slammed against the front post, but Spink was there to nail home the rebound and tally his fifth international goal.

Midfielder Leif Engqvist opened the scoring for the visitors with a beautifully struck shot from the edge of the area in the 70th minute — though Dahlin appeared to be in an offside position when the ball was kicked.

In the 81st minute, substitute Trimboli worked the ball forward to Arnold who hit a lovely ball forward into the path of defender Koczka who slotted the ball under keeper Fedel.

However, the visitors pulled back a goal almost instantly as Haker Lindman beat van Egmond and squared the ball to Dahlin who netted to make the score 3-2.

Dahlin was unlucky not to earn a penalty minutes later when Bernal grabbed his shirt in the penalty area, but the forward vented his frustration in the 88th minute with a mild tackle on Warren Spink and was sent off by referee Chris Bambridge.

Malmo were much better organised, Arok conceded after the game.

"They were poised and played with design. Not everything we did was an accident, but we were lucky at times. The early goal in particular was a blessing for us."

However, he expects the World Cup matches to be different.

"Charlie Yankos will be back, but still our problems were not with the sweeper who was quite good today," he said. "It was the markers who let us down."

Arok described the size of the crowd at Olympic Park as "depressing".

AUSTRALIA: Olver, Savor, Jennings (Bernal 68), Koczka, van Egmond, Davidson, Spink, Raskopoulos (Petersen 36), Arnold, Polak, Ollerenshaw (Trimboli 71).

MALMO FF: Fedel, Agren, Persson, Ljung, Vonderberg (Jonsson 74), Larsson (Allen 85), Thern, Engqvist, Palmer (Pauchstadt 76), Dahlin (sent off 88), Lindman.

Referee: Chris Bambridge. Crowd: 3000.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC vs PRESTON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

better from close range, and Shaun Parton hooked the ball off his line after Crainie eluded Keogh with a cross from the left.

Sunshine's best chance fell to Ossie Latif, who was left unattended with only goalkeeper Warwick Young to beat but sent his shot over the top after 20 minutes.

Wollongong may have scored four goals in their home win against Blacktown but have managed only one other goal in their five remaining games.

It is a dismal record but Fleming doesn't have the manpower to put pressure on strikers Pat Brodnik and Randell Easthorpe.

Giraldi made a good return to the side at the back after almost a season out with a broken leg while Parton defended well for Sunshine and he was well supported by Andrew Marth.

WOLLONGONG CITY: Young, Kotamanidis, Vlietstra, Giradli, Hollifield, Bonetig, Crainie, Skeen, Stefanovski (Higgs 81), Brodnik (Brown 85), Easthorpe.

SUNSHINE: Keogh, Waddell, Taylor, Ketsakidis, Parton, Carter, Lewis, Marth, Hasler, Lennon, Latif.

Referee: Arthur Owens. Crowd: 1412.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

With new signing Alan Scott in sparkling form at the back, Heidelberg looked set for its second win of the season but it didn't plan on Blacktown's comeback, inspired largely by the effortless genius of Zarko Odzakov.

Odzakov set up a number of second half opportunities as Blacktown began to find cracks in the Bergers' defence.

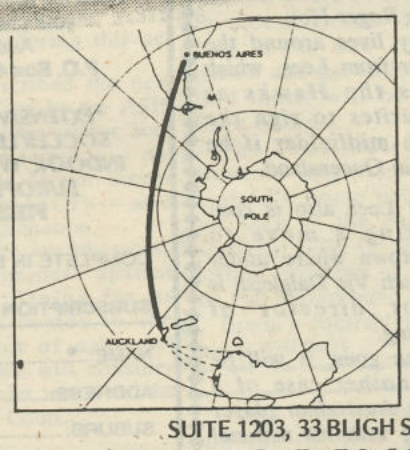
Rob Naumov levelled 22 minutes into the second half and Blacktown's climb-back was completed by Van Blerk.

HEIDELBERG: Banovic, Bordinon, Douglas, Scott, Ousalkis, Stewart, Burgess (Tredinnick 70), Stubbins, Goutzioulis, Lucchesi, Kanesoulis.

BLACKTOWN: Watson, Naumov, G. Sterrey, Reynolds, Northam, Odzakov, L. Sterrey, Maier, McKinna, Arambasic (Wright 58), Van Blerk.

Referee: C. Bambridge. Crowd: 2568.

ARGENTINAS



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Northern NSW News and views

FROM DAVE WILLIAMS

Centenary year at Adamstown

BY DAVE WILLIAMS

ADAMSTOWN Rosebud officials are expecting a revival of interest this season as the club approaches mid-1989 — its centenary year.

The Rosebud club was formed on July 12, one hundred years ago and the present administration is programming celebrationa round that date.

Among the list of functions being organised to bring former players and administrators back to the club between July 8-16 are a junior carnival, bush bands, a tour of the Hunter vineyards, a player reunion, an official dinner and barbecue.

Newcastle Jockey Club will name a race at its July 11 meeting in honour of the club, which has made an official approach to the Australian Soccer Federation for the Socceroos and the Australian Youth team to play two Rosebud invitation sides on July 12, at the Adamstown Sports Ground.

Adamstown has a proud history in Australian football.

It has never been relegated from State League or First Division and has produced innumerable State and international representatives.

Peter Doyle, Bill Coolahan, Billy Morgan, Alf 'Ducky' Henwood, Gordon Muncaster, Vic Barnett, Alan Johns, Dave Coote, Bill Mahoney and Cyril Nicholls were among those who, at one time or another, were the national colours.

One player, who must have been unlucky to miss national selection was State centre-half Ernie 'Smoke' Screen.

Screen was, during the '30s and '40s, one of the game's best ball distributors and toughest defenders.

Country youth

THE 1989 Northern NSW Federation's Country Youth Championship tournament will be played next weekend at Knox Park, Murwillumbah.

Five areas will be involved in the championship series — Hastings, Manning, Mid-North Coast, Tweed District and Tamworth.

Each team will play four games in the tournament, which will be used as selection trials before the Northern NSW squad is chosen for the National Youth Talent Identification Championship.

Les Bee, former State Director of Coaching for the Austrlaian Capital Territory, has been appointed coach of the 1989 Northern NSW Youth team.

However, due to Bee's previous coaching commitment at Tamworth, State Director of Coaching Ken Kaiser will attend the country championships at Murwillumbah.

The assembled gathering was: Bill Turner, Lou Mottershead (partly obscured), Fred Myles, Jack Kidd, Les Mitchell, Aub Hardes, Harold Hall, John Tattersal, Bill Disney, Sid Bradley (partly obscured). Row Three — Cyril Jack, Wal England, Arthur Roberts, Vince Pollock, Alf Rodway, George Muir, Bill Screen. Row Two (seated) Eric Roberts, Col Purcell, David Wright, (standing), Bill Jones, Jim Reeves. Front Row: Harry Arthur.

NORTHERN NSW

Referees Reunion

IT is seventy-five years since the first ever Referees Association was formed in Newcastle.

To celebrate the occasion a reunion was held at Tubemakers Recreation Club.

Current NSL referee Jim Reeves was at his effervescent best as compere for the evening.

Following a sumptuous meal it was down to the business of "Tall Tales and True" from the past.

Former president and FIFA referee George Muir had the members rocking on their chairs as he retold one or two of his famous adventures during his days in Newcastle. He now lives at Evans Head.

Wal England, on a more sombre note, exppressed the part referees must play in the great game of Soccer.

'Shutter-Bug' Wayne Purcell rallied the groups together far photographs.

For the next three years the referees will be sponsored by Cardiff Toyota.

WEST END

Austral's fine start

NEWCASTLE Austral has started the new season on a encouraging note with an unbeaten record after three games in the NSW Soccer Federation's pre-season competition.

Austral finished in fourth place in last year's NSW State League premiership and took a tentative step towards improving on that result when its first pre-season game against Warringah-Freshwater fell due.

Austral won that encounter 2-1, followed up with a 1-0 victory over Avala and, last Sunday beat Penrith 2-0 at Melita Stadium to go to the top of its group in the competition.

Skipper and former international Howard Tredinnick is now back in action and Willie Gallagher is giving the club's young midfielder Costa Caimakamis his chance to succeed.

Austral is also awaiting the outcome of Michael Boogaard's appeal to the NSW Federation's appeals committee.

Success from this action could see Boogaard as a valuable asset to Gallagher's defence strategy.

Joeys must keep minds on the job

BY GREG RUSSELL

AUSTRALIAN under 16 captain Eddie Lees believes his team will risk a rapid exit from the World Championships in Scotland if any of the Joeys begin thinking of overseas contracts.

After all the publicity surrounding the success enjoyed by the likes of Frank Farina, Eddie Krncevic and Jim Patikas with overseas clubs, the dream of impressing a scout is one the Aussie kids will find hard to suppress.

But the level-headed Lees believes his team must push those thoughts into the background and concentrate on the the job at hand.

"To think any of us are going to be rushed with offers by overseas clubs is to go to the championships far too cocky," said the Gold Coast teenager.

"We have to remember that the best 16-year-olds from the best 16 countries in the world will be on display and only the cream of the crop will be approached.

"To think we are in that category before we even take the field is to ask to be cut down to size.

"If we start thinking of ourselves as individuals on display, our teamwork will suffer. We will be bundled out of the tournament and no-one will want to know us.

"The best thing we can do is to try our best as a team for Australia. If any offers come after that, then it will be our bonus."

Lees does admit that if any overseas offers come his way, he would probably jump to play overseas — and that concerns Australian Soccer Federation chairman Ian Brusasco.

Brusasco has had long talks with Socceroo coach Frank Arok, who agrees Australia cannot cope with losing our next generation of internationals.

"I have no doubts that with the best 16-year-olds in the world on display that every club in Britain will have someone there ready to pick the eyes out of what is on show," Brusasco said.

"We cannot deny a youngster the chance to fulfil his potential, but at the same time the Australian Soccer Federation cannot go on spending money developing young players for the benefit of overseas clubs.

"It's a problem we must urgently consider. Hopefully, we can devise incentives that will make youngsters like those in the current under 16 squad want to stay in Australia."

Meanwhile, Lees' most pressing concern is where to play this season. He has spent the past two years with Twin Towns in the Gold Coast League but obviously now must look to a higher standard.

He has been approached by a number of Queensland XXXX League clubs, including Taringa, Brisbane Lions and Mount Gravatt, now coached by former Twin Towns coach Roger Hoy.

Hoy lives around the corner from Lees, which firms the Hawks as favourites to sign the tough midfielder if he stays in Queensland.

But Lees also is considering a move to Blacktown where under 16 coach Vic Dalgleish is junior director of coaching.

If he goes, it will be yet another case of a young Australian player linking with his national coach at club level — an aspect which concern others in the game.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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Visa player rule change is vital

BY PAUL GOODWIN

FOR many years now Australian Soccer Federation rules governing the use of visa players have been framed to allow for a maximum of three players per club in the National League.

The same rule applies to the 1st Division of each State Federation, which has always been seen as the cut-off point, more-or-less, for professional clubs.

Clubs in 2nd Divisions have been limited to one visa player, although at one stage some time back, clubs relegated from 1st Division were permitted to retain three visa players for the following season.

This year, in New South Wales, a process of restructuring is occuring and two ambitious clubs have found themselves in 2nd Division in 1989.

Both clubs, Yugal and North Shore United (formerly Ku-ring-gai) were unsuccessful in gaining admission to the new 1st Division, but are still intent on reaching that goal in 1990.

For various reasons their cases for inclusion were not considered strong enough and both are determined to produce results on the playing field to keep faith with their supporters.

Yugal invested heavily in players last year and must now release two visa players to comply with the rules.

This they see as unfair, especially in the climate of restructuring which aims to bring together the top semi-professional clubs, in a competition which can rival the National League.

North Shore United had hoped to spearhead their 1989 campaign with three talented new arrivals from Argentina who have been training solidly for several weeks.

Instead the club may have to plan without these players and all because of a rule, which, when framed, assumed that clubs below 1st Divisions were primarily operating on an amateur basis.

It is apparently contradictory to expect professionalism from aspiring clubs by way of administration, ground facilities and financial backing, without recognising that playing staffs should be build up along the same lines as the top professional clubs.

It is therefore time to review the policy in light of the NSW situation at least, where it is intended to clearly distinguish between amateur Soccer and semi-professional.

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

ASKS ROY HAY

THE new Soccer season has started and the Soccer writers are bombarding us with information on the new and old players who will make the headlines over the season.

For those readers who are new to Soccer writing it all must seem a little strange.

Cadet journalists also need a guide to the mass of information they will receive from clubs about star players, who are guaranteed to take each one to the top of the league.

So what does the Soccer column really mean?

To help readers and aspiring journalists, I offer the following glossary of terms, with my apologies to my many predecessors who have travelled down the same track in the past.

TERM OF PHRASE	WHAT IT REALLY MEANS
A solid player	A very slow defender
Fast	Has absolutely no ability to control the ball
Tackles hard	Goes around kicking people
Experienced	Knows how to kick people, and hide it from referees
Promising	Unlikely ever to make a good player
Very promising	See above, but his father owns or has shares in the club
Good in the air	Unable to control the ball on the ground, usually very tall so he doesn't have to jump to head the ball
Works hard off the ball	Runs around like a headless chook, but quite unable to do anything when he receives a pass
A coach's player	No-one knows how he gets a place in the team every week
A player's player	The one who always buys the drinks
Brilliant	About average
Super star	Slightly better than average, but paid vastly more
Plays like Maradona	Capable of scoring goals with his hands
Utility player	Not good enough to get a game in any position
Loyal clubman	No other club would dream of offering money for him
Top coach	A coach who is about to be sacked
Fearless keeper	Often saves the ball with his head, because it is harder than other people's boots
A safe pair of hands	Catches a dry ball at least once in three attempts, when not being challenged
Reliable	Needs to be led around the paddock, but will stay in the same spot if you put him there
Has a lethal shot	Watch out if you are a spectator anywhere behind the goals
Has played top class Soccer overseas	Made one appearance for a pub team in Liverpool
Comes to Australia highly recommended	His European club has been trying to get rid of him for years

Top Ryders U12 National Champions

Top Ryders, national U12 indoor champions. Back row: L to R: Anthony Smith, Chris Giometti, David Burge, James Weber, Fabio Franco. Front row: Darren Hoefsmit, Chad Bartsch. The boys are also members of the Gladesville Hornsby Youth League squad.

DID YOU KNOW?

— That in 1904 a NSW team toured New Zealand for nine matches?

NSW won 1-0 and drew 3-3 against New Zealand.

Ten of its 15 players were Australian-born.

— That in 1884 organised Soccer kicked off in Victoria?

In 1886 there were four clubs: South Melbourne, Carlton, Prahran, and Melbourne Rovers.

ACT

Indoor blow-up

BY GRAHAM COOKE

THE ACT Indoor Soccer Association, sacked by the Australian Indoor Soccer Federation last month for non-payment of affiliation fees, is to take immediate steps to regain affiliation.

A public meeting called by the ACTISA last week urged this step while affirming its belief that a grave injustice had been done to the ACT group.

A motion passed with an overwhelming majority considered "the action taken by the AISF through its national executive director in respect of the 1988-89 affiliation fees to be illegal, unilateral and unjustified and, as such, is rejected."

ACTISA president David Wright said afterwards that whatever the result of the reaffiliation move, it would be "business as usual".

"We have had spectacular successes in the last six months, including our work for the World Cup, the staging of our state championships and the best-ever result achieved by ACT teams in the national titles in Victoria last month.

"We are putting the dismissal behind us and will be going on with our Number One priority — developing competitions in the ACT.

"I will be getting in touch with the president of the ASIF, Charles Perkins, and put our case for the reversal of the disaffiliation ruling."

Earlier Wright had described the meeting as "historic for the ACT and one which would have repercussions outside the ACT's borders."

He was highly critical of the national body's intervention 12 months ago when it sacked the executive and ran ACT affairs from Sydney for several months. "They had no authority to do it. They were bluffing and on-one here called that bluff."

The reason for the latest dismissal — non-payment of affiliation fees — he described as a red herring.

"There has never been a formal demand for the money, no due date, no reminder notice, and no warning that the ASIF was considering this action."

He described the new group set up by the ASIF to administer indoor Soccer in the territory — the Australian Indoor Soccer Federation (ACT) — as a bogus organisation.

"If there are any moves to discriminate against people playing for us when it comes to the selection of national teams, we will consider bringing an action in the Supreme Court."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

FAIRFIELD CITY DYNAMOS' VICTORIES

FAIRFIELD City Dynamos, member of the James Hardie National Indoor Soccer League, have plenty of youngsters of quality on the way through the ranks.

The club completed in the recent National Club Championships and were successful in three grades.

They won the under 13 boys event as well as the under 12 and 18 girls titles.

A group of 60 people travelled to Moe in Victoria for the matches.

The under 12 girls ended up victorious in the final. The game was scoreless in ordinary time, but with the captain, Leanda Jamsek, and Carmen Menolotto being amongst the scorers, they finally triumphed.

The under 13 boys, coached by Alois Jamsek, was undefeated.

Fairfield City contested the final with Belconnen United from the ACT, and finally won 3-2.

Their under 14 team, hampered by an injury, went out 3-1 to a well organised Geelong in the semi-final.

Then in under 16 Fairfield lost the crown they had held for two years since a successful West Coast USA trip, by bowing out 1-0 to Apollo from the ACT.

To top off a great tournament, the clubs under 18 girls edged out Kick Cats fromt he ACT 3-1 in their final.

Under 12 girls and under 13 boys group photo: BACK ROW: L-R: Teresa Portolesi, Brendan Robinson, Carmen Menolotto, Jonathon Magro, Jenelle Skinner, John Cowan, Leanda Jamsek, Anthony Vicano, Narrelle Seymours. FRONT ROW: Glenn McGavigan, Adam Cunliffe, Michael Greentree, Paul Currao, Joanne Williams, Mark Hong, Nicholas Jamsek, Micky Trivuncevic.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

He was manager/coach of Banstead Athletic and took them to the top and promotion to the first division of the Vauxhall Opel League and then took Bromley to the premier division of the Vauxhall Opel League before going to coach in Zimbabwe.

He came to Australia in 1986 and made premier champions of Beecroft in the Gladesville-Hornsby Association before joining Granville.

Hills United will also field teams in the Youth League in the 13, 14, 15 and 17 years teams to give the youth of the district a chance to represent against similar teams from the national league like Marconi and Apia.

Baulkham Hills Shire Council is right behind the new club. Shire President Bernie Mullane is the new club's patron and the Hills United motif will be the Shire emblem.

The Fred Caterson Reserve might not be United's home ground for long — the club is already talking about setting up camp at Castle Hill Showground.

Breen's contract number is 639 8493.

Send your news and photos to ASW, P.O. Box 406, Broadway 2007.

Mike Wells' appointment official

THE South Australian Soccer Federation has officially announced the appointment of Mike Wells as its new general secretary.

He is currently employed as the State Director of Coaching and is highly qualified in the coaching field.

Wells will be replacing retired general secretary Peter Nikolich.

He sees his new role as an exciting challenge at a time when the game in SA needs a boost.

"Certainly for the moment I will remain Director of Coaching, thus ensuring that the developmental side of the game will still be serviced," said Wells.

He believes that bringing together the administrative and technical aspects of the game should ultimately benefit Soccer in the state.

DID YOU KNOW?

— That St George in 1971 was the first Australian club side to play overseas?

They beat a Frem, a Danish First Division side, to win a four-team international tournament in Tokyo.

NSL CUP

Round 1 matches are: WED MARCH 1: Melbourne City JUST v Sunshine GC, Olympic Park 7.30pm. Marconi v Blacktown City, Marconi Stadium 7.30pm. St George v Sydney Olympic, St George Stadium 7.30pm.

Wed MARCH 8: Melbourne Croatia v Heidelberg Utd, Olympic Park 7.30pm. Sydney Croatia v Apia L'hardt, Croatian Sp Centre 7.30pm.

Mon MARCH 13: South Melbourne v Preston Mak, Middle Park 7.30pm.

COMING WEST END NSL FIXTURES

ROUND 7

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25			
Sunshine GC	v	Sydney Olympic	Chaplin Res 5.30pm
Preston Mak	v	Melbourne Croatia	Olympic Park 7pm
Adelaide City	v	Marconi	Hindmarsh Stad 8pm
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 26			
Blacktown City	v	Apia L'hardt	Gabbie Stadium 5pm
South Melbourne	v	Wollongong City	Middle Park 5.30pm
Sydney Croatia	v	Melbourne City	Croatian Sp Ctre 6.30pm
St George	v	Heidelberg	St George Stad 7pm

All work — no play?

BY IAN MARRIOTT

AFTER a relatively inactive 1988, the NSW Soccer Coaches' Federation is back in business with a renewed enthusiasm in '89.

Almost 50 members attended the AGM recently held at Parklea, including Mike Urukalo currently coaching APIA in the NSL and Vic Dalgleish, national U16 Coach who has just taken his charges through to the World Cup finals to be held in Scotland later this year.

After taking a few moments to elect a new committee, the meeting was addressed by the recently appointed NSW Director of Coaching, David Lee.

A slogan, "It is amazing what can be achieved when nobody cares who gets the credit", was introduced by David who is hopeful that this type of attitude will spread throughout the entire Soccer network.

David spoke of the excellent facilities available at Valentine Park and indicated they were equal to or better than anything else in the world.

Coaches and clubs are encouraged to make full use of these facilities and any enquiries can either be directed to the D of C, the NSW Soccer Federation or the NSW Amateurs, who are all based in offices at Parklea.

Lee recommended that the Coaches' Federation become a member of the Australian Institute of Sport Video club which has more than 40 videos available directly related to coaching as well as many copies of games.

Some of the titles include: Pele — the master and his method; The Striker, and The Manchester United Story.

He also indicated that there was an information research centre available at the AIS and that by writing to them and asking for specific subject matter, ie goalkeeper injuries, that they would tap into the computer and pull out every available piece of information regarding that which is required.

The popular Centres of Excellece which were run last year with great success are to be continued and David intends to develop these further encouraging all associations to become involved in this scheme.

Goalkeeper coaching has been in great demand and David is investigating the possibilities of holding coaching sessions for this often-neglected specialty position.

Lee is attacking his new challenge as State D of C with great enthusiasm and this augurs well for the future of the game in NSW.

The NSW Coaches' Federation is seeking new members and is open to all coaches holding a Level 2 certificate or higher.

Anyone interested in becoming a member can do so by filling in and posting the coupon found on this page.

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NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

Marconi hammers Apia

BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

MARCONI handed keen rivals Apia a 7-2 thrashing last Saturday, with Carlos Vanegas and Paul Okon starring with two goals each, while Olympic stayed on top with a 2-1 win over AIS.

MARCONI 7 APIA 2

APIA looked well on the way to an upset when Steve Karavatakis swooped on a loose ball to score in only the second minute.

Their lead was short-lived, however, as Klaus Okon netted with a fierce drive from 20 metres within a minute.

Marconi took control after their equaliser and, despite a missed penalty from Klaus Okon, netted through Vanegas and Paul Okon (2) in the first period with Anagnostopoulos replying for the visitors.

Marconi marched on in the second period giving Mikuletic no respite. Vanegas collected his second in the 75th while Greg Carluccio and Andrew Charlewood completed the rout in the last five minutes.

MARCONI: Hughes, Carluccio, Colucci, P. Okon, Charlewood, Gunning (Mammone), Budini, Lovan, Ienco, K. Okon, Vanegas.

APIA: Mikuletic, Ruperto, Cosentino, Gregson, Webb, Franze, Palapanis, Karavatakis, Anagnostopoulos, Murray, Bard.

WOLLONGONG 1 ST GEORGE 0

Alex Villella, Wollongong's 15-year-old star helped the Wolves to consolidate third place with a cool strike in the 20th minute to down the Saints 1-0.

St George, who arrived at the ground just five minutes prior to the kick-off, were in trouble against a strong southerly in the first period with Danzo and D'amico foiled only by the brilliance of George Bouhoutsos.

The all-important goal came in the 20th minute, from a Jim Srbinovski cross on the left. Danzo turned his marker before slipping a pass to Villella who coolly beat a defender and slipped the ball home.

WOLLONGONG: Atsas, Allport, Trajcevski, Vidal, Reynolds, Baggott, McEvoy, Villella, (Harrison), Danzo, D'amico, Srbinovski (Placentin).

ST GEORGE: Bouhoutsos, Sotiriou (Allman), Esposito, Harmat (Goldshaw), Morakeas, McGregor, Lampropoulos, Kotevski, Adloski, Tressider, Mora.

OLYMPIC 2 AIS 1

Sydney Olympic held top spot on goal-average from Marconi after picking up both points in a close 2-1 win against the Institute side last Sunday.

AIS went in front in the 52nd minute through ex-Olympic player George Sorras as the young striker was on hand to net following a rebound.

Eric Hrist drew Olympic level eight minutes later with a 15-metre effort into the corner of the net and leading scorer Jason Bennett wrapped up the game for the home side in the 80th minute.

OLYMPIC: Gosling, Triantafilou, Georgakis, Barrett, Scott (Pantazis), Hrist, Sharpley, Saad, Lardis, Bennett, Refenes.

AIS: Mautone, Stanton, Kollva, Romaniuk, Dickinson, Sorras, Kindtner, Cranney, Trajanovski, Malone, Eldridge.

ADAMSTOWN 2 BLACKTOWN 3

The Demons fought back from the brink of defeat to take both points from the Rosebuds last Sunday.

After a goaless first half, Blacktown hit the front early in the second period, only to have Alan Gilday equalise with a 12-metre shot in the 59th minute.

Wayne Webb put Adamstown in front six minutes later with a clever chip over the keeper against the run of play, but the Rosebuds failed to hang on and Blacktown snared two late goals to take the match 3-2.

ADAMSTOWN: Symes, Milevski, Williams (Orton), Jonas, Dorman, Hudson (Coutts), Richards, Devine, Gilday, Bell, Webb.

NSL YOUTH LEAGUE NORTH

NEXT WEEK'S MATCHES
ROUND 6

Sat 28 Feb: AIS v Marconi at Bruce Stadium 5pm
Sun 29 Feb: Blacktown v Apia at Gabbie Stadium 3pm
St George v Adamstown at St George Stadium 5pm
Croatia v Wollongong at Croatian Sports Centre 4.30pm

Olympic	6	5	1	0	20	3	11
Marconi	6	5	1	0	16	5	11
Wollongong	5	3	1	1	7	5	7
Blacktown	5	2	0	3	10	12	4
St George	6	1	2	3	3	9	4
APIA	5	1	1	3	4	11	3
AIS	2	1	0	1	4	4	2
Adamstown	6	1	0	5	6	13	2
Croatia	5	1	0	4	4	12	2

MARCONI 7 (P. Okon 2, Vanegas 2, K. Okon, Carluccio, Charlewood) APIA 2 (Karavatakis, Anagnostopoulos), WOLLONGONG 1 (Villella) ST GEORGE 0 OLYMPIC 2 (Hrist, Bennett) AIS (Sorras), BLACKTOWN 3 ADAMSTOWN 2 (Gilday, Webb).

Scorers

5 Jason Bennett Olympic
4 Carlos Vanegas Marconi
3 Charlie Ienco Marconi
3 Klaus Okon
3 Eric Hrist Olympic
3 Adam Leatherbarrow Croatia
3 Robert D'amico Wollongong

NSW Coaches Federation

I am interested in becoming a member of the NSW Coaches Federation and would like you to send me an application form and any other relative information.

NAME .....
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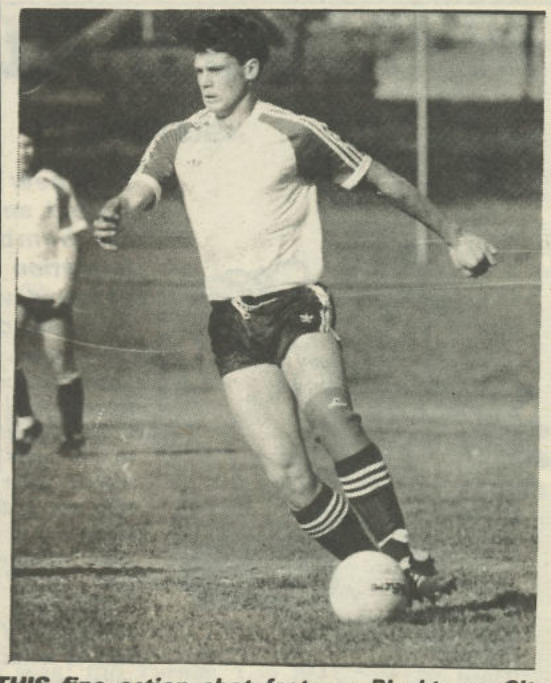

THIS fine action shot features Blacktown City squad member Paul Welch, who made his way through local football before gaining greater experience at the Australian Institute of Sport.

Coaching courses proposed for Valentine Park 1989

LEVEL 2 COURSE:
1. Feb 25th, 26th, Mar 4th, 5th, 11th, 12th.
2. Oct 7th, 8th, 14th, 15th, 21st, 22nd.
3. Oct 28th, 29th, Nov 4th, 5th, 11th, 12th.

BRIDGING COURSE:
1. Nov 25th, 26th.

FITNESS COURSE:
1. Nov 18th, 19th.

YOUTH LEAGUE *COACHES* COURSE:
1. Dec 2nd, 3rd.

LEVEL 3 1990:
1. Jan 7th, 12th.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

However, the man nominated to lead the AISF (ACT), Jim Roberts, said there would be no attempt to interfere with the ACTISA. "They are an incorporated body and can organise things as they see fit."

It was the policy of the AISF not to discriminate against Canberra youngsters, and coaches and managers of ACT teams in the national championships had already been sent letters seeking nominations for national selection.

He welcomed the reaffiliation move — "but it is the ACTISA which has, in the past, closed itself to the spirit of conciliation."

SOCCER FEDERATION

N-S-W

Robert Ironside (left) tackles Andew Zinni during last Sunday's stormy 1-1 draw between Sydney Olympic and Preston Makedonia.

AMATEUR SOCCER FEDERATION N·S·W·

NSW Amateur Soccer Federation

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TELEPHONE: Direct 629 2833, 629 2399, Switch 629 1800 Fax 629 3770

The happy group of Apia under 11 players snapped following their Argentina tour.
Touring were: Christian Echeverria, Shay Lena, Thomas Panayi, Daniel Kerti, Frank Sinko, Paul Oechimann, Chad Gibson, Daniel Ortiz, Gaston Montivero, Max Sevares, David Panetta, Terry Panayi and Diego Dominguez.
Coaches were Manuel Sevares and Carlos Panetta. They were assisted by Terry Panayi, Chris Kongonis and Adrian Ortiz.

THE MODIFIED GAME

Mini-Soccer for 6 to 10-year-olds

THE REASON: Educators, development coaches and psychologists over the past decade have become concerned by the pressure applied in small children's sport: pressure applied by competition, distance and numbers.

If skill in teams sports is "decision making," then the less pressure the easier the decision. So removal of numbers of opposition, distance to be covered and the effect of the decision on the result obviously reduce the pressure if a wrong decision is not the end of the world or is to be met by a tirade of abuse, then pressure by anticipation reaction will cease to exist.

On top of this, if we take into account the removal of sideline coaching, other than quiet encouragement, we could further ease the tension on little people.

Sideline coaching is useless. In fact, it is damaging as far as the average 6 to 10 year-old is concerned. Children's decision-making process cannot include audio and visual cues at the same time.

If a child is visually absorbing a picture and making a decision, based on mental referral to a previous situation, and someone yells an instruction, we have a recipe for 'coaching' disaster.

DELAYS SKILL DEVELOPMENT: The modified (mini) game has several distinct advantages: it increases the number of ball contacts per player by 150% and increases the shots on target by 500%.

If we rotate the players' positions (inc g/k) every 15 minutes, we get the basis of the modern multi-functional player. If there is competition, then as coaches, we are obliged to play players in their strongest position in the situation. Their strength gets stronger by repetition while their weaknesses continue to deteriorate through lack of use.

Rotation begins solving the problem of fixed position of players who can use only one leg.

So, if overall we analyse the "11 a-side game" for tiny tots, it is the most destructive facet in Soccer development.

WHAT DOES IT PRODUCE?

A one-footed, poorly balanced limited vision player who can only play one position wth a bad technique, and possibly injury from trying to over-strain to get distance. Also a player who has very little involvement and almost no shots at goal.

HANDS UP FOR 11-A-SIDE COMPETITIONS: On the other side we have the six-a-side heavy involvement, lots of shots, rotating position, simple rules, no coaching.

11-A-SIDE COMPETITIVE
Pressure
One Position forever
Use of one foot
12 kicks per game
4 Shots
Coaching
Abuse
Trophies for the winners

6 A-SIDE
Relax
A change every 15 minutes
All technique
30 kicks
16 shots on game
Encouragement
Sympathy
Fun for everybody

This fine picture of under 9 kiddies in action comes from a game between Broulee and Bodalla in the Eurobodalla Soccer Association. The Association takes in Batemans Bay, Moruya, Narooma, and Quaama (near Bega).

See Swedish champions tonight

BY IAN MARRIOTT

TONIGHT's match between Australia and the Swedish champions Malmo at the Parramatta Stadium should be a classic encounter, and will provide a good test for the new blood in the Socceroos line up.

Coach Frank Arok plans to treat this match as the equivalent of a home game with its attacking possibilities, having regarded Friday night's game in Melbourne as an away fixture, and therefore it promises to be an entertaining match with the Aussies keen to put a few in the back of the net.

Free tickets to the match are available to children up to the age of 16 simply by cutting out the coupon in this week's ASW and presenting it at the gate.

In other news, the Sydney Branch Youth League committee have finalised dates for the annual coaches and managers meetings, and these will be taking place this year at Punchbowl RSL starting at 7.30 on the 7th and 8th of March.

This year's Youth League draw will be handed out at the meeting.

Having spent 12 months in Second Division, Ku-ring-gai will re-enter the top group along with Bankstown Association, while Southern Districts and Central Coast will battle it out in Division Two.

Both of the relegated clubs are keen to regain First Division status and have excellent facilities available to them.

Pluim Park at Lisarow is the home of Central Coast, and of course the magnificent Marconi Club is Southern District's home since the amalgamation with the Bossley Parkers.

Penrith Uruguay almost found themselves out of the Youth League as they were unable to meet a requirement of having the juniors playing within close proximity of the senior club's ground.

The Sydney Branch has given Uruguay permission to continue this year. Failure to comply next season will see them out of the Youth League competition.

Marconi have continued to upgrade their facilities and there is little doubt that they are second to none in this regard.

The club now boasts three floodlit training pitches as well as a Youth League field, and of course, the billiard table surface of the main stadium.

All five grounds are in perfect condition. Even the training grounds are in far better condition than a number of NSL surfaces recently seen on television.

As reported in last week's ASW, Newcastle youngsters will have an ideal opportunity to see their Socceroo heroes in action on Wednesday March 1, when they take on a Newcastle Austral Select XI at Austral Park, Birmingham Gardens at 7pm.

All proceeds from the match will be forwarded to the NBN 3 Telethon, and no doubt those knowledgeable Newcastle fans will turn out in large numbers once again for the big event.

AUSTRAL UNITED S.F.C.

Sports medicine awareness course

THE Australian Sports Medicine Federation provides suitable courses to cover the needs of Soccer and general sporting organisations.

One of the most popular for Soccer people is the 'Sports Medicine Community Awareness Course.'

Others of considerable interest are the Level 1 and 2 Sports Trainers Courses and medical coverage for sporting events.

Last year in NSW the Sports Trainers course produced some 400 basic-trained first aiders.

They can now provide valuable service in their associations.

The community awareness course has been designed to teach the basic principles (in a theoretical and practical manner) of sports first aid over a period of eight hours.

***TOPICS COVERED:** in first 4 hours*

** Introduction and importance of Sports Medicine*
** Prevention of Injury*
** Injury to Head & Spine and the Unconscious patient*
** On-Field Assessment — Crisis Management*

PRACTICAL SESSION

** Stretches — Injured players and splints — TOETAPS — Transport*

***TOPICS COVERED:** in second 4 hours*

** Diet, Hydration, Children in Sport*
** Types of Injury and Primary care of Injury*

PRACTICAL SESSION

** Strapping — Bandaging and application of ICE*

This course can be run over two evenings x 4 hours each, or one full day x 8 hours.

*****COST***
$50 per participant
$43 per participant for Group of 20 people or more.

In addition, the ASMF can provide medical coverage.

DID YOU KNOW?

— That the first competition Soccer match played in Sydney was at Moore Park on June 6, 1885 between Caledonians and Arcadians? Caledonians won 7-1?

AUSTRALIAN AFFILIATED SOCCER REFEREES FEDERATION NSW DIVISION

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GEELONG CUP

BY ROY HAY

THE final of the Geelong Advertiser Cup, Victoria's premier non-metropolitan Soccer tournament, will be between North Geelong and Corio-Geelong United at Myers Reserve this Friday evening.

Corio-Geelong United tok the lead nine minutes into the second half, when a Robbie Noggler corner-kick was headed into the goal area and Paul den Ouden claimed the last touch as he fell.

Geelong, suffering from the absence of key players and injuries, went further behind when den Ouden found himself clear, and though his first shot was parried by Sean Howe, the striker followed up to score.

Noggler, who had been the victim of some fierce tackling, then was sent off after a bad foul on Geelong's Steve Jones.

The North Geelong v Bell Park game had five goals, two players sent off, one carried off and lots of excitement to keep the big crowd entertained.

John Hrkac took advantage of a defensive miskick to open North's account but Tommy Cumming got on the end of a huge clearing kick by Gary Walker to equalise. Hrkac damaged an ankle and had to leave soon after.

Patrick Alilovic showed his command of the dead ball with a lovely freekick for North and Ivan Soko was allowed a free run down the centre to make it 3-3.

Steve Scerri came up from the back to give Park hope at 3-2, but despite a fusillade of shots that is how it remained at the end.

Bell Park and Geelong play off for third place this evening.

WOMEN

Opener against Hong Kong

BY GRAHAM COOKE

THE Australian A and B teams have been kept apart in the draw for the Oceania women's tournament.

Australia A is in the same group as Hong Kong, India and Papua New Guinea, while the Bs have what appears to be a tougher task against reigning champion Taiwan, New Zealand and Polynesia.

AWSA executive director Heather Reid said the only seeding was the requirement the two finalists in the previous competition, Australia and Taiwan, be kept apart.

The opening game of the series will be Australia A v Hong Kong at Perry Park, Brisbane, on March 26. The last time the two teams met, in 1987, Australia won 6-0.

Reid said Taiwan had

HEATHER REID

indicated its squad would fly into Australia on March 16 with the aim of getting acclimatised well before the opening match.

Meanwhile, midfielder Meryl Geribo has withdrawn from the combined squad from which the two Australian teams will be selected.

That still leaves 34 players from which 32 must be selected, so she will probably not be replaced.

KIWI SQUAD

New Zealand women's coach Dave Boardman has picked a blend of youth and experience in his team for the Oceania Cup, making his selections with the 1991 inaugural World Cup in mind.

The 16 players for Australia are:

Debbie Pullen, Wendy Sharpe, Amanda Crawford, Viv Robertson, Leslie King, Monique van de Elzen, Ali Grant, Anne Smith, Lesley Letcher, Jane Simpson, Kim Lord, Wendi Henderson, Cinnamon Chaney, Maureen Jacobson, Pauline Sullivan, Julie Campbell.

AIS satisfies Smith during Canadian trip

FROM GRAHAM COOKE

THE Australian Institute of Sport has returned from a seven-match tour of the west coast of North America, with coach Ron Smith confident his young team has survived its first major test.

The team lost one game (its first) drew three and won three, showing a steady improvement as it progressed.

Its best performance was a 3-3 draw with the Vancouver '86ers senior side on the second-last match of the tour.

"We were outplayed in the first half and were lucky to go in at half time 1-0 down," Smith said. "Then we conceded two more early on in the second."

It would not have been unexpected had the youngsters crumbled at this point, instead they came back with three goals in 12 minutes — and had a fourth disallowed.

"The first came from a Robbie Stanton volley, then there was a great shot by Brian Keegan which the goalkeeper blocked, and Kris Trojonovski headed in the rebound," Smith said.

"The third came from a Trojonovski shot which took a deflection."

Trojonovski could have had a hat-trick when a defender ended up in the net with the ball, but the referee awarded an indirect free-kick to the '86ers.

In an exciting climax, AIS goalkeeper Steve Mautone made an outstanding save, teammate Brett Eldridge came close twice, and the '86ers had a goal disallowed.

The final match, played on a freezing pitch in a temperature of -9deg C, resulted in a 1-1 draw with the Canadian youth team.

The AIS led after 15 minutes through an own goal, with the home side equalising 10 minutes from the end.

Two trialists, Newcastle's Eldridge and Brad Maloney of Blacktown City, have been awarded full scholarships, completing the institute's squad for 1989.

Eldridge was one of the successes of the tour.

RON SMITH . . . AIS head coach

WOMEN

Central Coast prepares

THE Central Coast Women's State League Club has again entered its team in the NSWSF State League competition for the coming season.

Training for this squad will commence on Wednesday February 22 at Lisarow High School, commencing at 6.30pm, and all interested players are invited to attend at that time.

The squad is open to any female on the Central Coast wishing to improve her standard of play, and to participate in what is regarded as the best competition in Australia.

Further details or information may also be obtained by phone club coach Keith Everard on 40 1754.

— KEVIN BEST

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Write to ASW Letters, PO Box 406, Broadway NSW 2007. Please restrict letters to a maximum of 150 words and preferably typed, otherwise neatly hand-written.

REALISTIC ADMISSION PRICES

THE administrators of the National Soccer League have recently introduced positive measures to promote and improve the standard and the image of the league.

However, there is one glaring aspect they seem to have overlooked.

This aspect concerns the somewhat expensive admission prices for their games — a matter which directly affects loyal Soccer followers.

At this point, it is appropriate to detail the 1989 admission prices for NSL matches: Adults: $7, Pensioners: $4, Children (6-14yrs): $4, Children (under 6): Free.

These prices apply to games in Melbourne, but I assume the situation is the same or about the same for Sydney and Adelaide as well.

It is clearly apparent that the quickest avenue to continued success for the NSL is through increased attendances at its matches.

Consequently, the NSL should be making all attempts to promote its games by encouraging people to attend the matches through fair admission prices.

These prices become even more unreasonable considering the large sponsorship deal recently clinched by the NSL with the Victorian Health Foundation.

I hope the NSL does not adopt the line of thought that "the rich get richer . . ."

How can the NSL justify asking a 15-year-old to pay an adult fare ($7), given the fact that this individual doesn't work.

Another worrying feature is that the current facilities, which in most cases, can only be described as ordinary.

With this in mind, I would like to propose an alternative list of admission prices which seem fairer: Adults: $6, Pensioners: $3, Children (12-18yrs): $3, Children (under 12): Free *Student (19-25yrs): $4.

(*To prove their eligibility, individuals need only present their school enrolment/identification card).

In the interests of the game and its supporters, I would like to appeal to the NSL clubs and administrators to review admission prices and give the supporters, whose attendance at games is essential for success, a better deal.

FOOTNOTE: Over a two-week period (Round 1 to Round 4 of the NSL season) my brother (aged 18, student), my father and myself (21, student) attended 4 NSL matches — costing a total of $84. The same four matches, using my proposed admission prices would cost $52.

Considering ground facilities, playing standards, lack of parking facilities and other aspects confronting the supporter, the latter proposition is definitely more inviting.

Andrew Mangonis
Abbotsford Vic 3067

APOLOGISTS

IT has greatly amused me how many of the apologists for Australian Soccer are gloating over the increase in NSL crowds.

Well, not wishing to be sarcastic but one swallow doesn't make for summer Soccer.

When summer Soccer was announced or proposed for the NSL sometimes prices do not encourage families to attend matches — a family of two adults and two teenagers would require $28 just to enter the ground and use time ago I denounced it as a last card in the pack.

I also pointed out that this was not a new idea, but something that had been tried in North America with the NASL and in South Africa some time ago.

In both cases, while it was initially successful, it was ultimately a disastrous failure which was abandoned.

If the current crop of Soccer apologists are still involved with NSL Soccer in a couple of years it will be interesting to see what they think of summer football then.

I have for a long time felt that while there is no doubt that Soccer can do better at all levels to achieve its full potential in Australia, it will always be handicapped by a combination of long-standing and recent problems which are insolvable or at best only partially solvable.

On another tack, I feel that at least two well-known NSL clubs have really had a reprieve in managing to survive.

Remember what happened to Prague, Hakoah, Gladesville, Auburn and others.

Today it is only Sydney Croatia who represent a broad cross section of their community in NSW.

Apart from some ethnic zealots, who I believe often follow the game for the wrong reasons, the game's following is insufficient and needs to be revised.

Soccer Fan
Sydney
(name & address supplied)

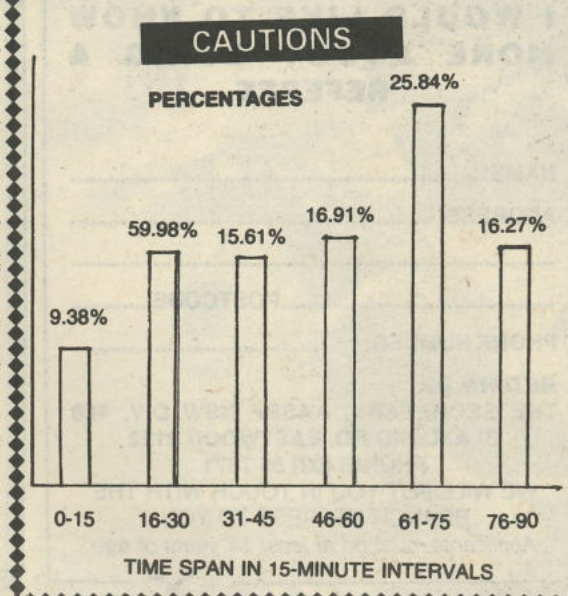
DOES BEHAVIOUR ON THE PITCH RUB OFF ON CROWDS?

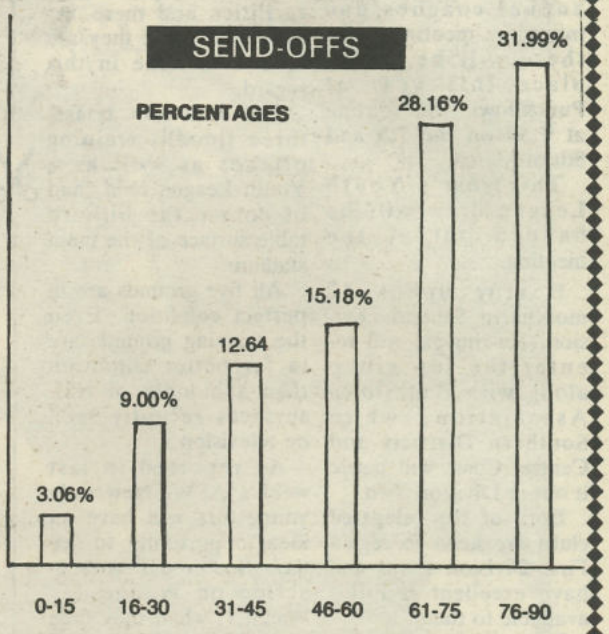
These bar charts prepared by NSW official Gary Power highlight the periods in NSW games when players are sent off and cautioned.

A distinct corelation appears to exist in that the build-up of heat in minutes 61/75 for cautions plays its part in the overwhelming preponderance of late send-offs.

Some 60% of expulsions occur over the last 30 minutes (30%) of a game.

The NSL and State Federations have cracked down on player misbehaviour, which in turn can lead to better behaviour and more family attendances at the grounds.





Australian schoolgirls' captain Denie Pentecost shoots for goal against Guanzhou last December. The Chinese women's team is now sponsored — a first for China.

Mao would turn in his grave!

SPONSORSHIP and private enterprise are making their mark on Chinese Soccer.

The Qixin Pharmaceutical factory of Guangzhou have signed up as first sponsor of the national team.

The one-year contract will also cover the Chinese women's side — which is enough to make the late Chairman Mao-Tse-Tung turn in his grave!

At the same time, the first private Soccer school has opened. Situated in Lianoing Province, it will cater for boys born between 1977 and 1982 and will be under the guidance of former youth Soccer coach Yan Yumin.

Despite such moves, Soccer seems to be stagnating somewhat in China.

A string of disappointing results at international level and increased prices are the two reasons blamed for falling attendances in big games.

In recent years the National Stadium in Peking has been half-empty for international matches although televised games from Europe still attract a huge viewing audience.

Another reason for this decline might well be the lack of any major on-going league to attract regular support.

Instead, the major domestic events are the multi-sport competitions which give young promising players an occasional opportunity to gain experience in a competitive environment.

The Farmers Games are one such contest and with 30 provinces represented they are a formidable event.

The football title this year went to Shandong who beat Liaoning 3-1.

There is now talk of staging an inter-city game which will provide further good class competition.

FORSTER'S RETURN?

WEST German defender Karl-Heinz Forster has indicated that he may be ready to return to help his country qualify for the 1990 World Cup finals.

Forster, 30, long regarded as one of the world's best centre-backs, will soon meet Franz Beckenbauer to discuss a possible national team comeback.

Beckenbauer, the German coach, is insisting Forster return, saying he needs him to qualify for the finals.

Forster won the last of his 81 caps in the 1986 3-2 World Cup final loss to Argentina. He then moved from VfB Stuttgart to France's Olympique Marseille and has not played for West Germany since.

Forster, who was injured and out of action for three months, is now again starring for his French club.

KARL-HEINZ FORSTER

Big brother is watching!

ITALY's Interior Minister has decreed that all large Soccer stadiums must install closed-circut television by the start of next season to monitor unruly fans in an effort to reduce violence.

Stadiums with more than 30,000 seats would not be allowed to host games unless they had TV monitors.

In the 1987/88 season in Italy, 268 police and 235 spectators were injured in game-related violence. Police arrested 275 people.

Strong Brazilian Squad

NEW Brazilian supremo Sebastiao Lazarone announced his 39-man squad for this year's Copa Ameriica and World Cup qualifiers.

The 13 players under contract with European clubs are expected to report for training in June.

The squad is:

Goalkeepers: Acacio (Vasco da Gama), Ze Carlos (Flamengo) and Taffarel (Internacional).

Defenders: Mozer and Ricardo (Benfica), Batista (Atletico Mineiro), Jorginho (Flamengo), Luis Carlos (Internacional), Eduardo (Fluminense), Marcelo (Corinthians), Aldair (Flamengo), Mazinho (Vasco de Gama), Aloisio (Barcelona), Andre Cruz (Ponte Preta) and Julio Cesar (Montpellier).

Midfielders: Geovani (Vasco de Gama), Uidemar (Golas), Rai (Sao Paulo), Ze do Carmo (Vasco de Gama), Zinho (Flamengo), Toninho (Portuguesa), Sergio Gil (Corinthians), Assis (Gremio), Andrade (Roma), Dunga (Fiorentina), Silas (Sporting Lisbon), Tita (Pescara) and Valdo (Benfica).

Strikers: Renato (Roma), Muller (Torino), Romario (PSV Eindhoven), Vivinho and Bismarck (Vasco da Gama), Careca (Cruzeiro), Bebeto (Flamengo), Washington (Fluminense), Nilson (Internacional), Joao Paulo (Guarani) and Careca (Napoli).

Aloisio

World — renowned Brazilian referee Romualdo Arpi Filho (seen here — centre — with his trophy as the world's best referee for 1987) is hanging up his whistle at the end of the season. Filho, 50, refereed the 1986 World Cup final and was the youngest-ever FIFA referee at age 24.

Wegerle hankers for US cap

LUTON Town striker Roy Wegerle was born in South Africa, holds a West German passport and has played in England for almost three years. But he has a burning ambition to play for the United States.

At a time when most players are looking no further than the next game, it is refreshing to hear from one who is not afraid to reveal his long-term ambitions.

"I would love to play for the USA when they stage the 1994 World Cup," says the new Luton favourite. "My wife, Maria, is American, and having had four years in the North American Soccer League I have an affinity with America.

"I also spent two years at a University over there, and would love to represent them. It's every player's ambition to play in the World Cup and my best chance to do so is for the United States."

OVERSEAS OVERVIEW

- **One of Belgium's top midfielders, Juan Lozano, has brought criminal charges against Waregem midfielder Yvan Desloover. The 32-year-old Spanish-born Anderlecht star was *seriously injured* by a Desloover *tackle nearly two years* ago, and *nine operations* have failed to restore Lozano to peak condition.**
- WEST German Second Division Soccer club FC Homburg won a court decision allowing a condom advertisement on its players' shirts. A Frankfurt civil court ruled the advertisment did not offend public morals, overturning a court ban won last April by the German Football Association. FC Homburg hopes to make $136,000 by the shirts displaying the condom brand name.
- **The Dubai Cup match between English champions Liverpool and Scottish title-holders Celtic, which was scheduled for the desert state on February 16, was postponed for a second time. The British championship clash — which was originally scheduled for late last year, but had to be put off because of club commitments — was rearranged for April 4 because of complications involving fixtures and travel.**
- Mo Johnston seems certain to leave France at the end of the season. The 25-year-old Scottish striking ace has been a success with Nantes, but the club are keen to cash in on his market value before his contract expires in 1990.
- **FC Koln, of West Germany, toured South America during the West German winter break, playing games in Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina.**
- Flamboyant Argentine coach, Luis Cesar Menotti, may join Italian club Udinese next season. Udine president Dario Canovi visited Buenos Aires for talks with "El Flaco" a fortnight ago. If Menotti leaves River Plate, his replacement could be Hector Veira, now with San Lorenzo.
- **Boca Juniors is the best-supported Argentine club after 20 competition rounds, but their average attendance of 17,907 spectators a game is nothing to write home about. Next best in the spectator-stakes are River Plate (12,524) and Racing (10,158). Estudiantes (4,413) and Argentinos Juniors (3,896), not to mention Racing Cordoba (2,303), draw less than some NSL clubs!**
- The Soviet Union's 1988 Player of the Year, Alexei Mikhailichenko, the destroyer of Australia's chances in the Olympic quarter-finals, has told SOVIETSKI SPORT he will still be playing for Dynamo Kiev next season. The 25-year-old midfielder claims he won't be moving to Italy "before at least 1991."
- **Lausanne's Stade de la Pontaise will add 3,000 seats to increase its capacity to a still very modest 28,000 for the May 10 European Cup-Winners' Cup final. The Swiss arena will be the smallest-ever to stage a major European final.**
- Derby County's Nigerian winger, John Chiedozie, out of action since injuring a cartilage in September, will return to the English First Division next month.

UK Scene

WALSALL are facing a players' revolt following the firing of manager Tommy Coakley. Several players, including striker Trevor Christie, want to leave.

★★★

DERBY COUNTY half-back Mark Wright should be back in the England team. That's the view of Rams' assistant manager Roy McFarland, a man many rate as one of the finest England No 5s of all-time.

He reckons that Wright is now the best centre-back in the UK, having developed and gained in maturity since his transfer from Southampton to the Baseball Ground 18 months ago.

★★★

PETER MORRIS, former assistant manager at Leicester City and now boss of FA Cup giant-killers Kettering Town, wants a better deal for non-League clubs.

Kettering are still well in the hunt in the GM Vauxhall Conference title to win automatic promotion to the Fourth Division.

But Morris believes the top three should go up and says: "The top 10 could all hold their own over a season in Division IV. Player-wise and financially, we have some well-run clubs."

NORWICH CITY mid-field ace Andy Townsend could be the next English-born player to declare for the Republic of Ireland. But with boss Jack Charlton keen to deter players from jumping onto the Irish bandwagon, the 25-year-old Londoner will have to wait until he's asked.

★★★

NOTTINGHAM FOREST's English under 21 international defender Steve Chettle has ended rumours of a possible move to Manchester United by signing a new five-year contract at the City Ground.

Manager Brian Clough says: "He has played at centre-half and right-back. I've also resisted suggestions to play him on the left when Stuart Pearce has been unavailable and I am happy he is staying."

Uruguayan celebrations after the last Copa America triumph. Coach Oscar Tabarez has selected a squad strong enough to repeat in 1989, when the South American Nations Cup will be staged in Rio and Sao Paulo.

Uruguay's 1989 squad announced

BY MARIO ETCHART

THE Uruguayan Soccer Association released the names of the 37 players selected by Oscar Tabarez, the national coach, with the aim of retaining the Copa America next July in Brazil, and to qualify for the 1990 World Cup finals held in Italy.

From the group of 37 that will commence training this week, Tabarez will pick the 22 players who will represent Uruguay in the two major competitions.

Nine players are from Penarol, eight from Uruguayan champion Danubio, six from inter-continental champion Nacional and one each from Huracan Buceo, Wanderers, Defensor and River Plate.

The other seven players selected by Tabarez play overseas, but arrangements were made to have them for the Copa America and the qualifiers for the World Cup to be played next August against Peru and Bolivia.

The players named are:

Goalkeepers: Fernando Alvez, Oscar Ferro, Jorge Sere and Javier Zeoli.

Defenders: Nelson Cabrera, Hugo De Leon, Alfonso Dominguez, Jorge Goncalvez, Jose Herrera, Jose Pintos Saldanha, Mario Rebollo, Daniel Revelez and Luis Romero.

Midfielders: Edgar Borges, Gustavo Correa, Eduardo Da Silva, Eber Moas, Santiago Ostolaza, Jose Perdomo, Ruben Pereira and Edison Suarez.

Strikers: Carlos Aguilera, Adolfo Baran, William Castro, Gustavo Dalto, Ruben Da Silva and Sergio Martinez.

From overseas, the players included are: Antonio Alzamendi (Logrones, Spain), Pablo Bengoechea (Sevilla, Spain), Enzo Francescoli (Matra Racing, France), Nelson Gutierrez and Ruben Sosa (Lazio, Italy), Ruben Paz (Racing, Argentina) and Obdulio Trasante (Gremio de Porto Alegre, Brazil).

Recopa

Nacional, of Uruguay, won the Recopa after a 0-0 draw with Racing of Argentina, in the second leg, played in Buenos Aires.

In the first game held in Montevideo, Nacional defeated Racing 1-0.

The game was played at Velez Sarsfield Stadium in front of a crowd of 30,000.

The Argentines dominated the whole game but were unable to penetrate a very solid Uruguayan defence.

The locals lost the best chance to score when Nacional's brilliant goalkeeper, Jorge Sere, stopped a penalty taken by striker Walter Fernandez in the 64th minute.

The Recopa is for the winners of the South American Super Cup and the Libertadores Cup.

Around the globe

Compiled by LOU GAUTIER

- **Costa Rica held Hamburg SV, of West Germany, to a 1-1 draw in San Jose in a build-up match before next month's World Cup CONCACAF final qualifying games. The Costa Ricans, whose champion club side Deportivo Saprissa toured NSW in 1959, are coached by Uruguayan De Simone. In another friendly in Central America, Poland beat Guatemala 1-0.**
- London's Hammersmith Council will buy Fulham's home ground, Craven Cottage, to prevent it being sold to developers who want to convert the old stadium into blocks of flats.
- **River Plate, of Argentina, will soon have to elect a new president. Current boss, Hugo Santilli, at the helm since 1983, won't stand for re-election.**
- Argentine Soccer players are amongst the least paid in the world. Did you know that Oscar Garre, a member of the 1986 World Cup-winning squad, received a measly $19,000 signing-on fee when he joined a Second Division club last month and his monthly salary is a princely $1100 a month? First Division salaries, with a few exceptions, aren't much better.
- **Colombia will play its World Cup elimination matches against Ecuador and Parguay in Barranquila, and not in the capital city, Bogota. The winner of this group will play off against Australia, New Zealand or Israel for a berth in Italy.**
- Hungary's Olympic team won India's traditional Nehru Cup by beating the Soviet Union's under 23 side 2-0 in the final in New Delhi.
- **Dinamo Zagreb coach Josip Skoblar may be coaching Spain's Valladolid next season and former Red Star Belgrade boss Vasovic will be at the helm of Bellinzona, of Switzerland.**
- Dynamo Kiev will stage a four-team international tournament in the Ukrainian capital in August with the participation of Ipswich Town, Juventus, Glasgow Rangers and, of course, the home club.
- **Barcelona could break new ground with the appointment of a woman as its club president. Anne Balletbo, a Socialist member of parliament, is one of the candidates challenging incumbent Jesus Nunez. She is said to have an excellent chance.**
- England have signed a sponsorship deal worth $6 million with Manchester sports goods firm Umbro.
- **Inter Milan say they are to appeal against the $170,000 fine imposed on them by the UEFA after incidents in the game against Bayern Munich.**
- Crisis English club Newcastle United have revealed debts of $6 million at their general meeting.
- **The first European Championship for "master" players (over 35s) will be staged in Denmark in July.**
- Italy's FC Napoli were also fined by the UEFA for incidents during their scoreless draw with Bordeaux. They have to fork out a whopping $90,000.
- **FIFA will nominate president Joao Havelange for the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize.**
- Canadian Dale Mitchell is the leading goalscorer in the MISL, the North American Indoor Soccer League, with 22 goals and 14 "assists". He plays for the Kansas City Comets.
- **Dynamo Kiev is now partially sponsored by the Italian media conglomerate, Telemundi, which paid for the transfer of Czechoslovakian midfielder, Vladimir Weiss, from Inter Bratislava.**

NO GOAL THIS TIME!

...l and Tony Adams show their jubilation as the ball is ...al-line during their First Division clash, but the goal was disallowed.

GEOVANI FOR PSV?

PSV Eindhoven, the reigning champions of Europe, are seriously considering acquiring Vaso de Gama star Geovani.

Brazil's Olympic captain would replace Ronald Koeman at the centre of the Dutch defence.

Koeman is to join Barcelona, of Spain, in July.

PSV are said to be willing to part with the $6 million needed to sign Geovani.

The deal would again be made through the giant Philps company, PSV's sponsors.

Philips acted as intermediary when the club bought another Brazilian, Romario, four months ago.